"L E G E N D"

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

by

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1 EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 1

Huge trees taper upwards like columns supporting the roof of heaven. Moonlit dewdrops spangle a delicate spiderweb. The setting is tranquil and utterly majestic.

Over the brow of a distant hill, a pair of brilliant light beams scintillate in an ethereal ballet.

Numerous small animals gather to behold this wonder. They stand on the hillcrest, staring down as if at the Nativity.

Squirrels, quail, hedgehogs, mice, pheasants and badgers, natural enemies united by the radiant LIGHT.

A magnificent stag watches, numbers of tiny songbirds perched in his branching antlers.

1A EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 1A

PULL BACK: from the hilltop, through ferns and brambles, to a steep embankment where umbrella-sized toadstools cluster.

A snarling face APPEARS under a mushroom cap. This is BLIX a brigand goblin hunter. Clad in decrepit armour and slung with savage weapons, he is a terrifying figure.

Blix WHISTLES. The SOUND is unexpectedly lovely, a nightingale's call.

Further back, three other goblins return the BIRDCALL. They bristle with weaponry. POX is a pig-faced fop, wearing tattered lace and filthy brocade. Tiny BLUNDER and TIC are both masked by grotesque helmets. Swarms of gnats drone about their hidden heads. They creep forward to join Blix.

1B GOBLINS' POV : HILLTOP 1B

The distant animals silhouetted by dazzling LIGHT.

1C EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 1C

Blix signals an advance and the goblins creep through the forest towards the hilltop.

A moth lands on a twig two feet from Tic's head. He turns. His incredibly sticky tongue uncoils from within the helmet, seizing the moth and retracting with it, quick as a flash.

As the goblins near the hilltop, the fantastic LIGHT gradually illuminates their hideous features.

A tiny mouse runs out of the eye-slits on Blunder's helmet, circles the crest, and runs back in on the other side.

Blix signals silently for the other goblins to spread out.

The goblins crawl separately through the underbrush.

CONTINUED

1C CONTINUED 1C

Pox comes snout to snout with a wild piglet. Terrified, the little shoat SQUEALS and scampers off.

2 DELETED 2

2A CLOSE : ANIMALS 2A

Alerted by the NOISE, they face the impending threat. The startled animals run for cover down the hillside.

2B EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 2B

Beyond the hilltop, the LIGHT BEAMS retreat.

3 DELETED 3

3A EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 3A

Blix charges forward, brandishing his crossbow.

BLIX
Kill....!

Blix runs over the top of the hill and down into the gully beyond, closely followed by Tic, Pox and Blunder. Brilliant clumps of forget-me-nots are everywhere, like discarded jewels.

3B GOBLINS' POV : DISTANT FOREST 3B

The pair of shining LIGHT BEAMS race away between the trees.

4 DELETED 4

5 DELETED 5

5A EXTERIOR FOREST NIGHT 5A

The goblins watch the LIGHT BEAMS disappear. Blix GROWLS in frustration.

BLUNDER
(musing)
....Fast as a hound dog with his ass on fire....

Blunder spots a SHINING silver hair caught on the bark. He reaches up and plucks it free.

POX
What's that....? L-l-let me see, old chap.

BLUNDER
No! It's mine!

5A CONTINUED 5A

Blunder hides the hair behind his back, but Pox quickly grabs the other end.

POX
Give it to m-m-m-me!

Both goblins pull on the hair. Miraculously, it does not break, but stretches between them like spun steel.

BLUNDER
Turn loose, anus features!

POX
Hard cheese!

A furious tug of war. Pox pulls his knife and tries unsuccessfully to cut the hair.

BLUNDER
It's mine you rectum! Mine! Mine!

Blix marches up and furiously bangs their heads together. Pox and Blunder fall dazed to the ground.

Blix holds the silver hair shining above his head and studies it.

BLIX
Disgusting and pure, like a prayer...
There be magic in this hair.
The beast ran off, faster and faster.
We must take this to our Master.

6 EXTERIOR VAST LANDSCAPE NIGHT 6

An incredible landscape, fantastically contoured hills rise above the moonbright mist. The four goblins dismount, tie up their devil steeds, and disappear over the brow of a hill.

6A EXTERIOR HILLSIDE NIGHT 6A

The goblins scramble down a steep hillside towards a desolate wasteland below. A mysterious malevolent shape looms on the far horizon.

7 EXTERIOR SINISTER EVERGLADE NIGHT 7

A miasmic Jurassic swamp. Stunted trees rise like amputated limbs from the fetid water.

The goblins pick their way across the bog towards a distant island, stepping from submerged logs to crumbled chunks of masonry to floating lily pads.

A cracked marble plinth juts out of the water. The goblins creep by a towering skeletal statue playing a bone violin.

7A EXTERIOR BOG NIGHT 7A

A v-shaped ripple undulates past them like the wake of a submerged crocodile.

Blix unhooks a dead rat from his game belt and tosses it onto the scummy surface. There is an angry swirl and it is gone.

Blix waves the goblins on and they climb onto a huge root twisting out of the water like a petrified serpent.

The ominous wake cruises back and forth like a shark. Blunder follows its progress with fear-widened eyes.

BLUNDER
Wish I was still a leprechaun.... Stay clear of nasty places like this and do nothing all day but sing and dance and guzzle wine in the sunshine....

Furious, Blix turns on him, his finger to his lips.

BLIX
Shhhh!

Unchastened, Blunder whirls on Pox and repeats the gesture:

BLUNDER
Shhhh!

Pox follows suit with Tic:

POX
Shhhh!

Not to be outdone, Tic turns to silence whoever might be behind him:

TIC
SHHHH!

7B EXTERIOR BOG NIGHT 7B

HAIRY MEG MUCKLEBONES rises out of the bog, huge and hideous. The water hag is half corpse, half serpent. She seizes Tic and disappears beneath the foul surface. The goblin's final CRY trembles in the chill night air.

7C EXTERIOR BOG NIGHT 7C

Blix, Pox and Blunder are terrified. They scramble over the twisted root in a wild panic, leaping onto a floating log.

BLUNDER
Run....! Panic....! Emergency....?

The log rolls beneath their frantic feet. They barely keep their balance.

CONTINUED

7C CONTINUED 7C

POX
Frog spit!

BLUNDER
Snail sperm!

BLIX
All together....now or never!

The goblins co-ordinate, like tiny lumberjacks, running in unison. The rolling log drifts forward.

POX
J-j-jolly good! Team spirit and all that!

The log runs aground against the island and the goblins hop ashore.

8 EXTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 8

An enormous blasted tree crowns the ruins of a forgotten castle. Tangled roots grip the ancient stones like the tentacles of a malformed sea monster. An atmosphere of eternal evil hovers over the site.

The goblins stare back across the bog.

BLUNDER
Poor Tic....

BLIX
(growling with anger)
Forget Tic! Less is always more.

POX
Better we split three ways than four!

Blix hurries up the crumbling steps. Pox and Blunder follow.

The steps lead under gigantic twisting roots. Blix finds a small opening and slips inside.

Pox and Blunder like this less and less, but follow their leader without complaint.

9 INTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 9

The three goblins tumble down a steep slope.

The giant tree is a vast hollow stump, open to the moonlit sky, surrounding a smaller tree transfixed by a curved bronze horn, an instrument of unspeakable evil.

Pox and Blunder stare up like open-mouthed tourists. Blix is impatient.

BLIX
Boost me....! Hurry....! We must sound the summons before the dawn....

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED 9

The three goblins form a teetering ladder with Blix wobbling at the top and Blunder crushed on the bottom.

Blix blows into the horn with all his might. Nothing happens. Not a sound. Suddenly, he breaks wind!

Pox and Blunder grimace.

Blix blows again into the horn.

There is no sound. Dead leaves and dust puff out of the bell, followed by three SQUEALING bats.

The supporting goblins wobble. Pox steps on Blunder's head.

Blix blows a third time into the great horn.

The unholy SOUND reverberates like the wailing of all the doomed souls in Purgatory.

10 EXTERIOR FOREST (VARIOUS ANGLES) NIGHT 10

As the evil SOUND moans, the forest creatures react with terror.

Squirrels, rabbits and mice dart fearfully for cover. Birds flock to their nests. Only the night creatures, the wolves, weasels and owls, prick up their ears and listen.

11 INTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 11

The three goblins cower terrified among the gnarled roots.

BLUNDER
Now what....?

BLIX
We sit.... We wait....That be our fate!

11A EXTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 11A

The goblins wait on the upper platform of the ruined castle. Blix sits apart from the others, staring out at the bog. The light of a campfire casts their shifting shadows against the huge trunk of the hollow tree.

Blix plays with the silver hair.

BLIX
(to himself)
Moving silent like the breeze.
Soft as shadows, still as trees,
Darkness be in all we sees.
He lives in silence, he lives in fire,
He lives in all that's dark and dire.

A mysterious floating shape approaches out of the distance. It is a black cloak, wafting through the mist like an airborne manta ray.

12 EXTERIOR BOG NIGHT 12

The flying cloak wraps about the statue of the skeletal fiddler. The wind presses it tight, revealing the skull through the cloth.

Suddenly, the statue's head turns to look at the great tree.

13 EXTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 13

Blix walks to the edge of the platform, peering into the night.

BLIX
Look in the gloom, search out the tomb,
That be where you find our sire.

The pedestal is empty. The statue of the fiddler has vanished!

Blix gets down on his knees, genuflecting toward the open bog.

The black shadow of the LORD OF DARKNESS falls across him.

Darkness towers over the ruined castle platform, a huge horned figure draped in black cloth. An awesome silence ensues.

Blunder and Pox kneel, heaping ashes and dirt upon their heads.

BLIX
Hail, O great One....divine and dark!
Strong like a lion, swift like a shark!

Blix offers the silver hair up to Darkness.

BLIX
Though I'm not worthy of the task,
Great Lord, I found this for your
amusement.

Blunder leaps to his feet and grabs the hair from Blix.

BLUNDER
Don't listen to them mealy-mouthed
lies, Boss.... I'm the one who
found it.... Me! Blunder the Bold!

There is a bright FLASH OF LIGHT. Blunder HOWLS with pain.

Blunder stares at his arm in dismay. His hand is gone, magically replaced by a grotesque bird claw.

BLUNDER
(stunned)
Thank you, Lordship....

Blunder experimentally clenches and unclenches his new bird claw.

POX
Quite stylish, actually....

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED 13

Darkness dangles the shining silver hair in front of him.

DARKNESS
Where....?

BLIX
In the woods, six leagues back,
'Tween Twin Oaks and the Dragon's Track.

DARKNESS
Did my bold hunters chance to see the quarry which cast this spoor?

BLIX
I stalked it, Sire, but much too slow,
What beast it be I do not know.

DARKNESS
This hair is from an angel of light...
It comes this way rarely... I must have this creature!

BLIX
Oh Divine Dark One, teach us how to trap this creature.

POX
Your instruction would be m-m-most ap-p-preciated.

BLUNDER
Amen! I wants to learn! I craves knowledge!

DARKNESS
No trap of yours will work.... There is only one lure for such disgusting goodness....one bait which never fails....

BLIX
Name the bait, Lord....

DARKNESS
Innocence!

14 EXTERIOR COTTAGE MEADOW DAY 14

A beautiful flower-spangled meadow alive with songbirds.

Baby rabbits frolic in the tall grass where industrious squirrels forage for acorns and nuts.

A delicate fawn gambols under the watchful eye of the doe. Clouds of multi-hued butterflies swirl overhead.

Waist-deep in flowers, a young princess skips SINGING across the meadow. Her name is LILI. She wears splendid brocades and carries a bouquet wrapped in a lace napkin. Like these blossoms, she is beautiful and fresh and innocent.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED 14

Tiny birds fly down and land on her head and shoulders. She laughs as a warbling wren takes a seed from her lips.

LILI
(singing)
Come down sparrow, sing me good morning.
Rise up sun, light the arch of the sky.
Living river, turn light to diamonds,
When I look in my true love's eyes.

Lili runs towards a distant thatched-roofed cottage.

15 EXTERIOR BOULDER AT EDGE OF WOODS DAY 15

Blix, Pox and Blunder hide behind a boulder, watching the girl.

BLIX
(whispering)
Darkness say the perfect lure
Always be a virgin pure....

15A EXTERIOR COTTAGE AT EDGE OF WOODS DAY 15A

The WOODCARVER'S WIFE is hanging up the washing when Lili sneaks from behind the cottage.

Grinning mischievously, Lili unfastens one end of the clothes-line and lets it drop.

The laundry flutters onto the new-mown grass. A sheet drapes around the outraged wife.

WIFE
Dad-blamed faeries!

16 INTERIOR COTTAGE DAY 16

The cottage is snug and homey with smoke-blackened beams and hand-pegged furniture. A WOODCARVER sleeps by his bench surrounded by wood-shavings and roughed-out toys.

Lili steps into the sunlight streaming through the open doorway. Her beauty is ethereal, an angel descending.

Finches peck at newly-made tarts laid on a trestle table to cool. They rise to the rafters at Lili's approach.

The Princess peeks around the room. She tiptoes to the hearth and lifts the stewpot lid, dipping in a fingertip for a taste.

Spying the tarts, she grabs one and eats it hurriedly, leaving a telltale crumb on her upper lip.

The clock tolls the hour. A carved wooden maiden pirouettes from the interior, pursued by a skeletal figure playing a bone fiddle. Lili is fascinated.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED 16

The Woodcarver's Wife enters. She curtsies to the Princess.

WIFE
God bless Your Highness. A royal visit is ever a joy.

LILI
I've not come to visit, Nell.

WIFE
Won't you stay for a tart?

Nell pulls a tray from the oven.

WIFE (CONT)
They're fresh-baked.

LILI
I've no time today.

WIFE
(teasing)
The Princess must have a sweetheart waiting.

LILI
Nonsense!

WIFE
Surely the king forbids such folly!

LILI
What my father doesn't know won't trouble him.

WIFE
The wilful heart invites despair,
Like blind men creeping in a dragon's lair.

With Nell's back turned, Lili steals another tart, hiding it among the flowers in her bouquet.

LILI
Neither country proverbs nor king's commands can keep me out of the woods today.

WIFE
Then it's common sense ought. These woods be thick with spriggen and banshee!

LILI
Is that why you've hung a bell over the door?

WIFE
Aye, and spread the floor with flax and salt. My babe won't be stole by faeries.

16 CONTINUED 16

The Princess starts merrily for the sun-bright doorway.

LILI
(laughing)
More salt, Nell....! You'll worry yourself to death if you're not careful.

Lili runs out like a naughty child. The Woodcarver's Wife leans against the door jamb and calls after her:

WIFE
Beware of toadstool rings and willow trees....! Stay away from old oaks!

17 EXTERIOR FOREST PATH TO GLADE DAY 17

Hiding behind a moss-covered log, Blix, Pox and Blunder watch Princess Lili run SINGING through the woods, oblivious to any possibility of danger.

BLIX
(scowling)
May be innocent.... May be sweet....
Ain't half as nice as rotten meat....!

18 EXTERIOR JACK'S FOREST GLADE DAY 18

A lovely glade surrounded by tall trees. Breathlessly, Lili runs in from the woods. She is familiar with this spot. It is her trysting place.

LILI
(calling)
Jack....! I know you're here....
Jack!

Lili looks around in exasperation. Behind her, something wild and mysterious swings through the trees like an animal.

LILI (CONT)
Jack? Where are you....? Answer me!

Lili is apprehensive at getting no reply. She hears the RUSTLE of leaves but does not see the sun-dappled figure leaping from limb to limb overhead.

LILI (CONT)
(frightened)
Oh, Jack....please say something if you're here....

JACK O' THE GREEN, a legendary "Green Man' who lives the free life of a hermit in the woods, drops from a tree behind the Princess, landing without a sound. He is barefoot, about sixteen, and wears woven ivy leaves and skins.

Startled, Lili SCREAMS.

18 CONTINUED 18

LILI (CONT)
Jack! You scared the life out of me.

Jack says nothing, staring at her shyly. Lili hands him the flowers.

A JAY flies down out of the greenery and lands RASPING on Jack's shoulder. He imitates the bird expertly. The Jay answers him in English.

JAY
She brings a gift as fair as herself.

Lili LAUGHS. It all seems magic to her.

LILI
You're so clever, Jack.... See what you can find in the flowers.

Jack pokes in the bouquet and discovers the stolen tart. He stuffs it immediately into his mouth.

JACK
Mmmmmmmm....

LILI
Sweet?

JAY
Sweets from the sweet.

JACK
I know someone sweeter.

Lili blushes.

19 EXTERIOR ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST DAY 19

Concealed behind the trees, Blix, Pox and Blunder watch the Green Man and the Princess wander down a meandering path.

Pox picks a spider from his web, pops it in his mouth, and crunches it down with a happy smile.

19A EXTERIOR MEANDERING PATH DAY 19A

Several birds perch on Jack's head and shoulders. Squirrels, rabbits and hedgehogs play about his feet. Jack feeds them nuts and berries from his pouch, answering their chatter expertly. Jack understands the language of all wild creatures.

When a frisky wren flies warbling overhead, Lili hesitantly returns its call.

CONTINUED

19A CONTINUED

JACK
That was very good....just right.

LILI
Teach me rabbit like you promised.

JACK
Rabbit is much harder than wren.

LILI
Let me try. I'm a very good student....
My father thinks I'm brilliant....

Lili toys with the silver medallion pendant she wears, causing reflected sunlight to shine in Jack's eyes.

LILI (CONT)
See how brilliant I am!

JACK
(laughing)
Stop it....! I can't see!

LILI
Don't I dazzle you with my wisdom?

Lili seems to glow with sunlight. Jack stares at her, rapt with love.

JACK
Much more than wisdom dazzles me.

Lili LAUGHS and hangs her medallion around his neck.

LILI
Then teach me rabbit.

JACK
Not today.... There's something really special I promised to show you.

LILI
(delighted)
Oh, Jack. Do you mean it?

JACK
If it pleases you.

LILI
More than anything!

JACK
This is their season. They won't pass here again for a long, long time.... If you want to see them, you must do everything I tell you.

LILI
I swear....on my honour!

19A CONTINUED. 19A

JACK
I'm taking you to a very special place....it's sort of sacred. Nobody but me knows where it is, and, well....

LILI
(impatient)
What? Tell me!

Jack unwraps the lace napkin from Lili's bouquet...

JACK
You'll have to wear a blindfold.

LILI
(coyly)
Don't you trust me, Jack?

JACK
I'll always trust you, Lili....

20 EXTERIOR FOREST PATH, GLADE TO STREAM DAY 20

Jack holds Lili's hand, leading her blindfolded along a path through the woods. Distant thunder RUMBLES.

JACK
Storm's coming....

LILI
Who cares? Haven't you a cosy place to hide?

JACK
Many places....none fit for a princess....

LILI
In these woods you are the prince, Jack....I am only a pauper here....

Jack turns to face a radiantly smiling Lili. He bends towards her, closer and closer, and, for a moment, seems about to steal a kiss. She waits, smiling, sensing what is about to happen. In the end, Jack's innocence and timidity get the best of him and he turns away. Without his knowledge Lili lifts a corner of the blindfold and mischievously peeks.

20A EXTERIOR BEHIND A TREE NEAR THE PATH DAY 20A

The three goblins peer around a mossy trunk.

BLUNDER
Yuck! Did you see what he was gonna do? Makes me want to puke!

BLIX
I swear by all the bats above, Nothing's quite so foul as love!

21 EXTERIOR UNICORN STREAM AND GLADE DAY 21

A sun-gilded amphitheatre within the darker confines of the forest. Sparkling like a ribbon of diamonds, a stream flows down the middle.

21 CONTINUED 21

Jack leads Lili out of the woods and unties the napkin from around her eyes.

LILI
(awestruck)
Oh, Jack....! It's magic!

Jack leads LIli into the concealing shrubbery.

21A EXTERIOR STREAMSIDE SHRUBBERY DAY 21A

Some time has passed. Lili is uncomfortable and restless.

LILI
How much longer?

JACK
Be patient!

Lili kneels by the bank of the stream, cupping water into her hands. Jack stops her from drinking.

LILI
I'm thirsty!

Jack points at a huge viper moving sinuously along the bank.

JACK
It's poisoned the brook. No animal will drink here now.

LILI
(indignant)
I want some water.

JACK
Shhh!

LILI
Don't tell me to be quiet....!
I'm a princess!

Jack pulls Lili back into hiding.

JACK
(very softly)
Just watch! True royalty approaches....

22 EXTERIOR THE STREAM (JACK & LILI'S POV) DAY 22

The radiant LIGHT BEAMS GLEAM through the trees. A moment later, a splendid white unicorn moves down the hillside to the edge of the stream. This is a stallion. He holds his head proudly. His mate stands at the edge of the woods.

LILI (OS)
Ohh....They're so beautiful....

22 CONTINUED 22

The unicorn dips his horn into the stream.

JACK (OS)
The alicorn purifies the water....

The stallion watches his mare approach to drink. She is slighter and more delicate, but every inch as magnificent.

JACK (CONT) (OS)
There's no creature with more power or magic.... As long as they roam the earth, evil cannot harm the pure of heart....

23 EXTERIOR LARGE BOULDER OPPOSITE CLEARING DAY 23

The three goblins crouch hiding.

BLUNDER
(disgusted)
Ugly one-horned mules!

BLIX
Shhh!

24 EXTERIOR CLEARING DAY 24

The Princess is entranced.

LILI
Such grace.... Can you speak their language?

JACK
A little....it's very hard. Unicorns talk only of love and laughter. Dark thoughts are almost impossible for them to express.

LILI
Oh Jack....I must touch one.

JACK
(alarmed)
No!

LILI
I want to!

Jack restrains the Princess when she attempts to get up from hiding.

JACK
It is forbidden. These are sacred animals.

LILI
Nothing is forbidden me!

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED 24

JACK
Don't ever say that! You risk your immortal soul.

Lili pulls free and steps into the clearing.

LILI
You sound like my confessor.... I only want to touch one.

The Princess strides defiantly into the open meadow.

The unicorns watch the girl from across the stream. They snort and paw the ground.

Lili stands alone, holding out her arms to the unicorns:

LILI
(singing)
Like a child feels watching a rainbow.
Like a bird feels the first time it flies
I feel magic stirring within me,
When I look in my true love's eyes.

The stallion's nostrils flare. His strong neck arches. Sunlight gleams on his horn as he charges.

From Lili's POV the stallion is terrifying as he thunders towards her across the stream.

The stallion rears and prances, racing around the Princess as if drawn forward on an invisible lead.

Jack watches from the underbrush, his outrage tinged with more than a touch of jealousy.

25 EXTERIOR BOULDER DAY 25

Blix, Pox and Blunder peer from their hiding-place. Evil leers brighten their impish features.

POX
(whispering)
M-m-might as well be fish in a barrel.... One would hope for a t-t-touch more sp-p-port....

Blix clamps his hand over Pox's mouth.

BLIX
Pox! Shut your yap!

26 EXTERIOR CLEARING DAY 26

The lureof the virgin is too strong for the unicorn to resist. Lili makes no move as the trembling stallion stands before her, the rapier tip of his horn pressed against her breast. It is obvious he could kill her in an instant.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED 26

The Princess calmly reaches out and caresses his muzzle.

LILI
(singing)
When the darkness falls like a curtain
And the rivers and streams turn to ice,
I have summer and daylight forever
When I look in my true love's eyes.

Across the stream, the mare paces back and forth, obviously agitated.

27 EXTERIOR BEHIND THE BOULDER DAY 27

Blix pulls a long black flute from his quiver. He takes a dried hornet from a black snail-shell with a hinged lid and slips it into his flute, aiming the instrument like a blowgun.

BLUNDER
Steady....take your time....
Don't miss....

Blix silences the foolish goblin with a ferocious scowl. His cheeks puff. There is a soft PHUT of expelled breath.

28 EXTERIOR CENTRE OF CLEARING DAY 28

The poisoned hornet sails through the air and strikes the stallion on the haunch.

Stung, the unicorn bolts across the clearing, disappearing into the undergrowth with the mare hard on his heels.

The Princess stands confused and bewildered.

Distant THUNDER disturbs the tranquillity.

Jack rushes to Lili's side.

LILI
Oh, Jack, it was so lovely....
like a dream.

JACK
(angry)
You're lucky it wasn't a
nightmare!

LILI
Don't be such a scold.... Come,
I'll chase your fears away.

The Princess takes Jack by the hand and leads him from the clearing.

29 EXTERIOR FOREST (UNICORN HUNT) DAY 29

The unicorns plunge through brambles and fern clumps. Leaping a deadfall log, the stallion stumbles. He struggles to his feet and continues running.

29 CONTINUED 29

The three goblins gallop pell-mell in pursuit on their devilish steeds. There is nothing comical about them now.

30 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 30

Jack and Lili sit atop a high promontory jutting over a crystalline pond.

LILI
(reciting)
Sweet William did a-hunting go,
In the wood where faeries dwell.
From dawn to dark roamed he to and fro,
Lost, O lost, all under their spell.

31 EXTERIOR FOREST (UNICORN HUNT) DAY 31

The stallion staggers, his gait increasingly unstable as the poison takes effect.

The mare nuzzles his flank where the envenomed hornet struck. It is a virulent wound, red and swollen.

The war-like SHOUTING of the goblins grows ever closer.

The unicorns pause at a fork in the trail. The stallion motions with his head. Sadly, the mare comprehends and flees down the divergent path to safety.

The stallion stands his ground. When the three goblin hunters gallop towards him, he turns and limps into the woods.

32 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 32

Jack lies beside Lili, listening raptly to her poem.

LILI
(reciting)
Came he at last to where bluebells grow,
He heard them ring, 'tis true to tell.
He lay him down and did not know
The flower's sound was his own death knell.

And while he slept came the lady fair,
And gathered him up behind her saddle.
Now, all young hunters of bluebells beware
Sweet William rode straight through the gates of Hell.

Jack is lost in Lili's smile.

JACK
When I get to heaven, I know just how the angels will sound.

LILI
(enjoying it)
Do you flatter all the girls like that, Jack?

32 CONTINUED 32

JACK
(embarrassed)
It's the truth.

Lili kisses Jack sweetly. He doesn't respond.

LILI
(smiling)
Are you afraid of my kiss?

JACK
I'm afraid you'll break my heart.

LILI
Then still your heart.... You are dear to me as life itself.

JACK
Only because I amuse you...like some trained bear!

LILI
That's not true....! I do love you, Jack. Your must believe me!

JACK
And if I do....no good can come from it. I am only a Green Man, without land or title....no name or wealth to bring you.

The Princess pulls her golden ring on and off her finger.

LILI
What does it matter. I don't care about any of that.

JACK
But, it does matter....! If not now....some day. What about when the time comes for you to marry?

LILI
I want to marry you.

JACK
That's impossible!

LILI
Not if it's what you really want, Jack.

Lili shows Jack her ring.

LILI (CONT)
Don't you wish this was our wedding ring?

JACK
What if I say yes....? Will my wish come true?

32 CONTINUED 32

LILI
It is my right as a princess to set a challenge for my suitors.

Lili throws her ring high over their heads. It glitters through the air, tumbling over and over in the long drop to the pond.

LILI (CONT)
I will marry whoever finds this ring.

The ring splashes into the centre of the pond. Jack strips off his leafy cloak and dives headlong from the cliff.

33 EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 33

Sweat-streaked, the unicorn staggers out of the trees onto a sweeping green meadow brilliant with pink blossoms. Froth bubbles on his nostrils. His wide azure eyes betray his panic.

The goblins ride onto the flower-bright meadow. They jump down from their mounts in a frenzy.

BLUNDER
(excited)
We got him now....! We got him now!

The stallion stumbles forward, making a last futile effort to attack the goblins. Limbs leaden, head hanging, the noble animal settles against a sapling and slides to the ground.

Thunder RUMBLES overhead. A wild wind whips the pink blossoms into the air.

34 EXTERIOR UNDERWATER RING POND DAY 34

The golden ring drifts down, tumbling in a lazy spiral.

Jack's pale form stabs through the crystal water. The distant glint of the sinking ring lures him on.

The ring settles into the mud on the bottom, concealed by waving weeds.

Jack searches blindly as clouds of silt billow about him.

35 EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 35

The three goblins advance towards the fallen unicorn through a pink blizzard of wind-blown blossoms.

35A EXTERIOR SKY DAY 35A

The black clouds boil and CRASH, thunderheads mounting one upon another in a dark maelstrom.

36 EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 36

The goblins stand around the fallen unicorn. Blunder turns away as Pox seizes the end of the alicorn, lifting it off the ground. Blix swings an evil battle-axe high up over his head.

Jagged lightning splits the raging darkness as the black blade falls.

Blix waves the severed alicorn in triumph.

The whirling pink petals turn instantly into white snowflakes.

37 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 37

Apocalyptic winds SCREAM through the forest. Lightning FLASHES.

The world is plunged into winter darkness.

Lili clings to a tree trunk.

LILI
(in desperation)
Jack! Help me!

The Princess can't maintain her grip. The icy blast knocks her to the ground and she crawls to the cliff edge.

LILI (CONT)
(screaming)
Jack!

To her horror, Lili sees a skin of ice form over the surface of the pond.

LILI (CONT)
(sobbing)
Oh, dear God.... Jack....no....

Fighting the raging wind, Lili stumbles to the pond and pounds on the ice in frustration. It is no use.

LILI (CONT)
....got to get help!

Frantically, Lili runs off into the storm-whipped woods.

38 EXTERIOR UNDERWATER RING POND DAY 38

Jack turns and looks up at the dark surface. He strokes upwards, only to bump his head into something solid at the top. The pond is covered by a sheet of ice!

39 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 39

Jack's contorted face is seen through the ice.

He breaks the frozen surface with his fist and his gasping head thrusts into the air.

JACK
(shouting)
Lili....!

His words are lost on the wind.

40 EXTERIOR COTTAGE MEADOW DAY 40

Winter shrouds the tiny homestead. Immobile goats, chickens and ducks stand silent as snow statues in the farmyard.

Lili runs from the frozen forest and stumbles up the cottage steps.

41 INTERIOR COTTAGE (FROZEN) DAY 41

The Princess barges in, wild-eyed and distraught.

Frost rimes the walls and furnishings. Everything glistens like sugar candy. The Woodcarver and his wife are frozen solid.

LILI
Nell....! Arthur....!

Lili touches the wife's gelid cheek.

LILI (CONT)
Nell....? Oh, nooooo!

Lili is shocked to discover the wife is frozen.

The Princess throws herself sobbing across the bed.

SOUNDS of SNORTING and SHOUTING come from outside.

Lili scratches the frost off the window pane in the sleeping alcove.

42 LILI'S POV : THROUGH WINDOW 42

The noisy goblins ride up on a makeshift sleigh of lashed animal bones. They stop outside and clamber out. Blix has the alicorn tucked under his arm.

43 INTERIOR COTTAGE DAY 43

Terrified, Lili runs wildly across the cottage and climbs the ladder to the loft.

43A INTERIOR COTTAGE LOFT DAY 43A

Barrels and chests are stored here. Cured bacon and hams hang from the rafters. Lili hides in a corner with several twig brooms and a butter churn. She wraps herself in an old quilt snatched from an open trunk.

Snow blows in through a hole in the roof, covering the floor timbers. Three-inch gaps between the planks permit a view into the cottage interior.

43B LILI'S POV : BETWEEN PLANKS 43B

The front door slams open and the goblins stumble laughing inside.

BLIX
Mortal world turned to ice,
Here by goblins' paradise!

43C INTERIOR COTTAGE DAY 43C

Blunder sinks his hand-axe into the kitchen table as he saunters past the frozen tarts.

BLUNDER
Lots to eat!

Pox runs forward to the cradle and seizes the frozen baby, baring his tusks for the feast.

POX
I s-s-simply adore m-m-milk-fed meat!

BLUNDER
What're you....? Some kinda animal?

Horrified, Lili GASPS (OS) in the loft.

The goblins cock their ears to listen. Pox SNARLS and drops the baby back into the cradle.

Curious, Blunder starts up the ladder to the loft, but changes his mind halfway, more interested in what Blix is doing.

BLIX
Why eat cold? It's better hot!

Blix points the alicorn at the frozen stewpot on the hearth. It begins to steam and bubble, magically boiling without a fire underneath.

POX
Am-m-mazing! How did you d-d-d-do that, old ch-ch-chap?

Blix is equally surprised by the alicorn's power. He CACKLES and aims it at the clock on the mantle.

CONTINUED

43C CONTINUED 43C

The clock's hands spin wildly around backwards, the carved figures darting in and out at five times their normal speed.

Blix launches on an orgy of destruction, waving the alicorn like a magic wand. Plates shatter, the cradle rocks. furniture topples, Toby jugs come WAILING alive, painted wooden toys dance and caper.

The goblins SHRIEK with impish joy.

43D INTERIOR LOFT (FROZEN) DAY 43D

Lili watches the havoc through the gaps in the floor.

Blix points the alicorn straight up. Snow flies wildly around the crouching Princess.

The broom and the butter churn begin a mad dance across the crowded loft.

It is all the Princess can do keep from screaming.

43E INTERIOR COTTAGE (FROZEN) DAY 43E

As a grand finale, Blix points the alicorn at Nell's frozen figure, blowing her skirts above her waist.

POX
(languidly)
M-m-most amusing, Blix....most terribly amusing.

BLUNDER
This is sure our lucky day.
Killed that ugly one-horn dead
as a cowplop on a birthday cake!

BLIX
Prattle, prattle like a priest!
(pointing to himself)
It was me who shoot the beast!

POX
Without the p-p-princess for bait,
you'd never have gotten close....
B-b-beauty brought the b-b-beast
to bay.

BLUNDER
She's so sweet....I could eat her
brains like jam!

43F INTERIOR LOFT (FROZEN) DAY 43F

Lili slumps against the wall, aghast at what she's just overheard.

43G INTERIOR COTTAGE DAY 43G

Blunder and Pox fill a sack with frozen tarts.

POX
I'd like to suck her b-b-bones!

Blix points the alicorn at the cottage door. It flies open with a CRASH.

BLIX
Better hurry! Can't be late!

Blix marches out of the door. The other two goblins follow, dragging their sack of tarts.

BLUNDER
When we deliver that horn, Pox ol' buddy, Darkness gonna give us a humongous big reward.

Blunder and Pox leave, slamming the door behind them.

After a long pause, Lili creeps sobbing down the ladder from the loft.

LILI
Oh, God.... God....

The Princess stumbles across the cottage towards Nell.

LILI (CONT)
What have I done...? I didn't want the unicorn to die.... All I did was touch it....

Lili pleads with the frozen Wife, as if begging for her forgiveness. She is interrupted by the gruff voice of a House BROWNIE.

BROWNIE (OS)
You're a wicked, wicked girl!

Lili looks up and sees a long-bearded Brownie standing next to the clock on the mantle.

43H LILI'S POV : BROWNIE 43H

BROWNIE
The world is in a fine mess because of you.

43I BROWNIE'S POV : LILI 43I

LILI
(desperately)
I'll make it right somehow.... I swear it....! I don't care what happens to me!

43J LILI'S POV : BROWNIE 43J

BROWNIE
Words....mere words.... Bold deeds be needed now! Look at you! Pampered and soft! Never done a day's work in your life....

LILI (OS)
Who are you?

BROWNIE
Me....? I'm the house brownie.... I keep dust devils under the bed and all the china cracked.... You know how a watched pot never boils? I do that....and I'm a wizard at turning sweet milk sour....

The front door CRASHES loudly open.

43K INTERIOR COTTAGE (FROZEN) DAY 43K

Little Blunder swaggers into the cottage.

Lili covers her face with the quilt and holds herself rigid as if frozen. The Brownie ducks out of sight.

Blunder stalks to the kitchen table and pulls his axe free. He does a double-take on spotting the Princess. The tiny goblin can't remember if he saw her earlier or not.

He pokes her and lifts her skirt to peek at her legs. He is stopped short by Blix's angry CRY outside:

BLIX (OS)
Blunder! Move your butt! On the double!

Blunder hurries to the door.

Lili relaxes when she hears it SLAM.

LILI
Thank God....

Lili looks up at the mantle.

LILI (CONT)
(sobbing)
Can you....help me?

43L LILI'S POV : BROWNIE 43L

BROWNIE
Can I what?

LILI (OS)
Help me....

CONTINUED

43L CONTINUED 43L

BROWNIE
(sadly)
I'd like to....but I'm a domestic sort of chap....no good at all where demons are concerned....

43M BROWNIE'S POV : LILI 43M

LILI
Then I'll do it by myself! I'll follow those goblins....somehow.... even if it costs my life!

43N LILI'S POV : BROWNIE 43N

BROWNIE
I like your spirit! There's always hope when a brave heart backs a noble cause....but what chance have you? They have the alicorn! The power is theirs!

43O BROWNIE'S POV : LILI 43O

The Princess resolutely hurries about the cottage, gathering things to eat and other useful items.

LILI
I will do it! You'll see.... I fooled them now, didn't I.... Well, I'll do it again, easy as pie....

Lili starts for the door.

BROWNIE (OS)
Wait....! Take this....!

Lili turns back.

43P LILI'S POV : BROWNIE 43P

The Brownie pulls a golden feather from his cap and tosses it down to Lili.

BROWNIE
'Tis from the tail of the cockatrice.... Make you fleet as a running deer. And better, when things seem at their darkest, 'twill remind you always that hope is alive....

43Q BROWNIE'S POV : LILI 43Q

The Princess tucks the feather into her bodice.

LILI
Thank you.... Hope is just what I need.

Lili rushes from the cottage back into the snow.

44 EXTERIOR FOREST (SNOW TRAVELLER) DAY 44

A full-scale blizzard drives down through the naked tree limbs. Jack slogs forward, near frozen.

JACK
(calling)
Lili....! Lili....!

Jack sees a tiny bird, frozen solid on a branch. He takes it tenderly down, trying to warm it with his breath.

JACK (CONT)
What's happened....

Standing rigid all around him are numbers of frozen animals.

He can do nothing for the bird and trudges on into the storm.

JACK (CONT)
(calling)
Lili....!

Up ahead, the figure of a man is barely discernible.

Jack runs to the man, thinking himself saved.

Jack discovers the man is frozen, like the bird. His initial shock gives way to relief. The man is his salvation after all.

Quickly, he unties the stranger's travel bags and cloak.

JACK (CONT)
God rest your soul.... I know you won't mind if I borrow your things.

Jack wraps himself in the cloak and finds a tinder box in the travel bag.

He scrapes together a pile of twigs, striking sparks with the flint and steel to start them smouldering.

45 DELETED : TRANSPOSED TO 46D 45

46 EXTERIOR FAERIE CIRCLE NIGHT 46

A campfire blazes. Jack sleeps beside a tiny fire, shivering under his new cloak.

A tiny glowing LIGHT streaks out of the woods. It circles around Jack. The LIGHT touches the fire and it BLAZES up like a bonfire, waking Jack.

JACK
What....?

46A JACK'S POV : LIGHT 46A

Jack stares at the radiant bubble hanging above him. He sees a tiny woman-child with delicate dragonfly wings trapped inside. This is LUNA.

JACK (CONT) OS)
Who're you?

46B EXTERIOR FAERIE CIRCLE NIGHT 46B

Luna ZOOMS off into the treetops.

Jack grabs a flaming brand and jumps to his feet.

JACK (CONT)
Who's there....?

Watching him through the drifting smoke is GUMP, an elf no more than waist high. Slightly built, he is near-naked in spite of the cold. His face is that of a child, yet his eyes shine with a wisdom centuries old.

GUMP
(smiling mysteriously)
Here you be a forest child and not know the Gump....

JACK
Gump, is it?

GUMP
Aye, Jack.... Honeythorn Gump at your service....

The air is filled with frenzied CLICKS and SNAPS: stones tapping, sticks rubbing, logs being thmped etc.

Numbers of green-glowing eyes stare at Jack out of the shadows.

JACK
(frightened)
How d'you know my name?

CONTINUED

46B CONTINUED 46B

GUMP
How does a migrating swallow know the way south in winter....? Or a spawning salmon find the tiny freshet of his birth from the black cold depths of the mysterious sea....? I know everything, Jack!

JACK
Everything....? Why has this happened? Why is it winter now?

GUMP
I'd be a powerful wizard indeed could I answer....
(shrewdly)
Suppose you tell me, Jack.

Jack is uncomfortable.

JACK
Me? How can I do that?

GUMP
You know these woods as well as any elf.... Did you not see something odd today? Any strange spirits? Did nothing untoward happen?

JACK
No....well.... I took Lili to see the unicorns....

GUMP
(furious)
You did what?

Numbers of elves and faeries appear out of the dark woods. They come in all sizes, from sprites no larger than squirrels to plump hobmen as big as small children.

BROWN TOM is a plump, tipsy leprechaun, draped with pots and pans like a tinker; SCREWBALL, a tiny pixie wearing an ill-fitting cap and garments tassled with flowers.

FAERIES
(whispering in chorus)
What....? Codfish and cockles....! Never....! Pewterpots and.... pumpkins....! Poo-poo pudding....! Doo-doo dumplings....! Shit-willy whatnot....!

GUMP
Silence!

CONTINUED

46B CONTINUED 46B

The whispering stops. All eyes are on Jack. He writhes with guilt under their scrutiny.

JACK
(deeply ashamed)
Oh God, she touched him....

A GROAN rises from the crowd of faeries. They are outraged. Gump is maddest of all. His face darkens. His eyes glow. He trembles with banshee fury.

GUMP
Touched it! A mortal laid hands on a unicorn?

BROWN TOM
Bad....terrible bad!

JACK
We meant no wrong.

GUMP
(screaming)
What was it you did mean, Jack!

JACK
Nothing....

GUMP
(cold and hard)
Nothing, he calls it!

JACK
I wanted to share something special with her.

GUMP
Well.... I have something now to share with you....a lively reel to warm your bones!

Gump magically pulls a violin out of thin air.

JACK
I'm in no mood for dancing.

GUMP
(sreaming with wrath)
Squawk! Squawk! No more talk.... Do you think you can upset the order of the universe and not pay the price?

Brown Tom produces ancient bagpipes, Screwball a tambourine. The other wee folk tune up an incredible variety of oddly-shaped instruments: seashell trumpets, acorn cellos, gossets, serpentines, blossom-bell horns, bone flutes, all manner of drums and rattles.

CONTINUED

46B CONTINUED 46B

A wild and haunting overture begins. The rhythm is compulsive.

Jack cannot control his body. His feet move against his will.

JACK
(frantic)
No! I want no part of your nonsense.

Gump leers demonically.

GUMP
Time to dance, Jack!

Playing his fiddle, Gump is possessed, demonic.

Screwball beats on a log with a pair of shin bones. The faerie orchestra breaks into an other-world melody. Jack leaps and jumps like a zombie.

JACK
No....! Please....!

BROWN TOM
(chanting)
Round and round and round and round,
Before you're lost, you must be found.

The tempo increases. The musicians leap and cavort.

Jack twists and capers, dancing against his will.

SCREWBALL
(chanting)
In and out and up and down,
Behind each smile there lurks a frown.

Gump leaps wildly, fiddling like a demon. Jack is a prisoner of the frenzied music.

BROWN TOM
(chanting)
Spin and spin and spin and spin,
To learn to lose you first must win.

Gump hops into the fire, dancing and playing as sparks leap about him. The music grows wilder. Jack will never survive.

SCREWBALL
(chanting)
Twist and reel and toe and heel,
The end to pain is to learn to feel!

Jack's face is a mask of agony. With a supreme effort, he hurls himself onto the ground, his body jerking spasmodically to the music.

46B CONTINUED 46B

JACK
(screaming)
Enough!

The faerie orchestra falters, their tempo broken.

GUMP
(angry)
Is the music not to your liking?

JACK
(gasping)
I....won't....go....on.... Take my life, if you must.... What I did is unforgivable....
(boldly)
But, I did it for love! And I'd do it again! I love Lili with all my heart and would sooner die than break a promise!

Gump stares at Jack. A tender expression softens his flinty eyes.

GUMP
Hmmmm.... Love, you say....? Love is another story....

JACK
I meant no disrespect....

GUMP
Answer me this riddle and all is forgiven.

JACK
And if I cannot?

GUMP
Why, Jack....then 'tis your death song I'll be playing.

JACK
Ask away, and pray God my answer pleases you.

GUMP
What is a bell that does not ring,
Yet, its knell makes the angels sing?

Gump laughs, knowing Jack can't solve his riddle. Jack frowns in concentration, then grins, as the memory of Lili's song rushes back.

JACK
Bluebells!

GUMP
What?

46B CONTINUED 46B

JACK
The flower. Bluebells. To hear them ringing means your life is at an end.

Gump hurls his violin to the ground and stomps on it.

GUMP
Damnation! Codfish and cockles! Gammon and trotters!

Screwball and Brown Tom run for cover as Gump explodes in an insane frenzy. He throws himself on the ground, kicking and SCREAMING.

GUMP (CONT)
Rabbit noodles....! Schweinhundt saukraut mit schlagober....! Piddle-puddles und ka-ka crumpets....! Piss pots and thunder mugs! Demkopf doo-doo brain riddle-widdler!

Abruptly, Gump stands and dusts himself off as if nothing had happened. He smiles at Jack and holds out his tiny hand.

GUMP (CONT)
You bested me, Jack.... Bested me.... bested me....

JACK
(moedstly)
A riddle without an answer is like an empty cup when you're thirsty for wine.

GUMP
Well spoke! And if it's wine you want, it's wine we shall have.

Gump claps his hands and four tiny glasses magically APPEAR, floating in the air before them.

Another clap and Brown Tom's hat POPS off his head, revealing a wine bottle balanced underneath.

GUMP (CONT)
A small measure of entertainment at best.

Gump snaps his fingers and the wine bottle floats off Brown Tom's head, pausing in mid-air to fill each bobbing glass.

GUMP (CONT)
Elderberry wine....no finer drink under heaven.

Each one takes a glass. Gump raises his in a toast.

46B CONTINUED 46B

GUMP (CONT)
Here's to Jack....riddle-solver.... dancing fool, and faerie friend....

They all clink glasses. Jack regards his with suspicion.

JACK
I'm honoured, Gump....but no more tricks!

GUMP
(to the others)
Here be precious summertime frozen into a winter memory and the blamed fool won't drink faerie wine for fear of enchantment.

They all drink, Jack with some reluctance. The faeries enjoy the wine. Jack gags, as if he's swallowed fire.

JACK
(coughing)
Pranks....! Is that all you're good for....! I've lost Lili....! Gump! Help me! Use your magic to find her.... set the world right.

GUMP
Changing this frozen hell is beyond my modest powers.

JACK
Is there nothing you can do?

GUMP
If you want more tricks, I'm your man....but, for big questions you must go elsewhere.

JACK
But don't you care what's happened?

GUMP
Course we care... What good's the world locked in a season of death? No folks to scare on a summer's night....

BROWN TOM
No babies to tickle....

SCREWBALL
No lovers to tease....

GUMP
No more spells to cast.... Does that sound like an enjoyable prospect?

JACK
We must find the answer!

CONTINUED

46B CONTINUED 46B

GUMP
That we must. But first, we better see that no harm's come to the unicorns.

SCREWBALL
I sadly fear the worst....

Gump claps his hands and everyone is magically holding luminous flower lanterns.

46C EXTERIOR DEEP FOREST NIGHT 46C

Seen from a distance, the lantern-lit faerie procession glows like foxfire between the massive trees.

46D EXTERIOR SNOW (LILI TRACKS GOBLINS) NIGHT 46D

Princess Lili runs swiftly between the frozen trees, following the tracks of the goblins. The quilt is torn, her hair dishevelled. She pauses at the top of a small, steep hill.

The tracks of the goblins' sleigh pass below.

Lili jumps from the hilltop, leaving the quilt floating behind like a discarded skin. It is an incredible leap.

She lands with the sureness of a wild woodland creature and runs off, hair streaming behind, following the trail of the sled.

47 EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA NIGHT 47

The faerie procession moves out of the woods onto the frozen meadow.

FAERIES
(singing together)
What can you do when there's
Nothing to be done?
Sing a little song
And have fun, fun, fun....

The silhouette of the unicorn is glimpsed in the glow of the faerie lanterns.

Led by Jack, the faeries run towards the recumbent stallion.

Wisp stoops and picks up an arrow dropped by the goblins.

GUMP
(studying arrow)
This is goblins' work....
Powerful demons are against us!

Jack kneels sadly beside the ice-glazed unicorn.

CONTINUED

47 CONTINUED 47

The SOUND of CRASHING HOOFBEATS alerts the faeries as the mare unicorn thunders out of the trees.

BROWN TOM
Take cover, laddies!

The faeries dive for protection. Only Jack stands his ground.

The mare charges straight at Jack. He is knocked to his knees as she gallops past.

The unicorn wheels about. Jack scrambles to his feet.

She charges again, skidding to a stop on the frozen grass. Her alicorn is aimed straight at Jack's throat.

GUMP
Run, Jack!

JACK
The fault was mine. I owe her my life.

GUMP
Nobly spoken, lad, and nobility is her gift in return.

The mare makes a soft NOISE deep in her throat. It is a cross between whale song and the cooing of doves.

Jack responds in kind, imitating the sound exactly.

SCREWBALL
What's he saying? What's it mean?

BROWN TOM
(shrugging)
Search me.... I speak some rabbit, but not a word of unicorn.

The unicorn continues, a SOUND as close to music as anything heard in nature. Jack listens intently and answers her.

GUMP
Come on Jack, don't keep us in the dark.

JACK
The dark is where we'll stay.... We're cursed. All warmth and light was lost when the stallion died.

BROWN TOM
Is there naught we can do?

JACK
We must get the alicorn back. Only then will the world return to normal.

47 CONTINUED 47

GUMP
And how do faeries fight a demon?

JACK
She says we're to find a champion.... a mortal, bold of heart and pure in spirit.

SCREWBALL
Look....! Look....!

Screwball points to the mare's hoofprints in the snow. Tiny wild flowers spring to life within each indentation.

JACK
That is the warmth of her soul. Not even death's icy hand can stop it!

SCREWBALL
Little good her soul'll do us now.

BROWN TOM
Screwball's right. Where we gonna find a champion when every mortal can swing a sword is froze stiff as an icicle?

GUMP
Don't give up so quick, lads.
(feeling Jack's arm)
You sure you're mortal?

JACK
(indignant)
Course I am!

BROWN TOM
(dubious)
What sort of mortal speaks unicorn?

SCREWBALL
Why aren't you frozen then?

JACK
I don't know.... I was under water.... and when I came up for air everything was covered with ice.

GUMP
You'll do.... We best get you some weapons.

JACK
(puzzled)
Weapons....? What are they?

47 CONTINUED 47

BROWN TOM
(dubious)
He's no champion, Gump.

GUMP
We'll have to make him one....
or kill him trying....! Follow me!

Gump leads Jack and the others into the woods. The unicorn follows.

FAERIES
(singing)
What can you do when there's
Nothing to be done?
Sing a little song
And have fun, fun, fun....

48 EXTERIOR GREAT TREE NIGHT 48

Lili creeps around the base of the tree, making no sound. She moves with the grace of an animal and hides behind a gnarled root where she can watch the goblins.

Blix holds court, surrounded by a lantern's glow. Pox sits on a bit of crumbled masonry. Blunder watches Blix gesture with the alicorn.

BLIX
Look at us! Waiting around like
lackies...and for what? We're
the ones with the power!

BLUNDER
You shouldn't talk like that, Blix.
We gets in plenty big trouble!

BLIX
I'm not afraid! Not even Darkness
lasts forever!

Blix aims the alicorn at Blunder, causing a burst of fire to erupt beneath the tiny, helmeted goblin.

Blunder YELPS and runs off, clutching his flaming backside.

Blix roars with laughter. Power has gone completely to his head.

BLIX (CONT)
Watch out, Pox!

Blix points the alicorn at Pox. Fire explodes beneath the pig-faced goblin. He leaps SCREAMING into the air.

Blix points the alicorn at the fire he started and it grows larger.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED 48

BLIX (CONT)
Higher....higher....
Burning fire!
Making music
Like the choir!

Blunder and Pox watch Blix make the fire fountain into the air.

The heavens blaze. Lili is dazzled.

Something very strange is happening within the swirling column of flame. Gradually, a demonic form emerges.

Outlined in fire we see the leering face of Darkness!

Pox and Blunder applaud Blix's rebellion.

POX/BLUNDER
(chanting)
Higher....higher....
Burning fire!
Making music
Like a choir!

The three unsuspecting goblins look up and see the demonic Lord of Darkness flaming above them.

Blix tosses the alicorn into the air. Blunder unwittingly catches it.

BLIX
Greetings, Worship....

POX
W-w-welcome, Great Lord....
D-d-darkest of the....

DARKNESS
Your devotion disgusts me? You insignificant strands of toad slobber!

Blix and Pox drop grovelling to their knees, covering their heads with leaves and dirt.

Blunder can't control himself. He rushes forward and points the alicorn up at Darkness.

BLUNDER
Hear me, you angels of light!
Your reign is over! A new order begins! All the imps of Hell will dance freely over this dark land....
I hold the power....

DARKNESS
Enough!

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED 48

Darkness points a burning finger at Blunder. The alicorn is ripped from the goblin's grasp and flies up to Darkness. Blunder YELPS in terror.

Something terrible happens: the ground around Blunder begins to soften. To his horror, the little goblin sinks under as if into quicksand.

BLUNDER
Please.... It was only a joke....
I didn't mean it.... Honest....!

Blunder is in up to his neck.

BLUNDER (CONT)
Whatsamatter? Have you no sense of humour? I hope you choke on faerie breath and flower petals!

Blunder's hand points up from the earth. Darkness ZAPS it, turning it to another chicken-claw!

Blunder is gone without a trace; sucked under with a disgusting SLURP.

Darkness HOWLS his triumph to the heavens.

From her place of concealment, Lili overhears every word.

DARKNESS
Did you think this alicorn a mere plaything....? With it my empire is eternal! Before, I ruled only the night. Now, my minions will frolic in darkness until the end of time.

Darkness aims the alicorn at the column of fire started by Blix, tracing an arc of flame through the night.

Like a mad orchestra conductor with a magic baton, Darkness controls the fire's movements. The blaze twists and swirls across the black night, blazing meteor trails, bright as the aeora.

BLIX
(fawning)
Forgive this intrustion.... My goblins are a free-spirited lot. I like to encourage their.... initiative. What do you think of this policy, Master?

Columns of flame shower around the Dark Lord and from within their incendiary interiors, evil wraith-like spirits emerge, swirling like ghosts.

Bright as comets, numbers of ethereal flaming spirits orbit their fiery master. Darkness stands in total control within the mighty conflagration, the alicorn his sceptre.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED 48

Suddenly, with the pure clarity of a BELL CHIME, the presence of DAYLIGHT is detected.

The reflected glow of the coming dawn tinges the ground and casts its luminence over Darkness and the goblins.

Darkness cringes in terrible pain.

DARKNESS (CONT)
(writhing)
What is this light....?

Beams of rising sunlight advance down the tree trunks.

Darkness recoils, wrapping his flaming cloak about him.

DARKNESS (CONT)
You killed the final unicorn....
Is this not true?

Blix and Pox exchange guilty looks.

BLIX
This is true....

POX
Undeniably t-t-true, Lord.

Darkness is on to them. He points with the alicorn.

DARKNESS
You lie! Here is dawn!

POX
Well....almost t-t-true....
ess-s-sentially true....

BLIX
That stallion is dead, dead as dreams,
Dead as legend....

DARKNESS
OUT WITH IT!

Sunlight is half-way to the ground. Darkness shrinks, shrivelling like a dying ember.

POX
But....but....the m-m-mare still
lives....

DARKNESS
If even one unicorn walks the
earth, my power is not complete....

BLIX
Just a female.... She has no
power....

48 CONTINUED 48

The gound grows very light. Darkness melts into the campfire.

DARKNESS
Only the power of creation....?
Get that female....! I command
you.... In the name of Darkness....

Sunlight strikes the ground. Darkness is gone! His arm holding the alicorn aloft above the fire is the last to disappear.

Lili backs silently into the shadows surrounding the Great Tree.

49 EXTERIOR FOREST PATH DAY 49

Lili runs straight into a driving blizzard. A distant SOUND alerts her and she pauses to listen.

It is Jack and the faeries, SINGING. Jack's voice carries above the others.

JACK & FAERIES (OS)
When times are hard and things look bad,
Don't feel blue and don't feel sad....

A look of astonished joy comes over Lili's face. As the SOUND of singing FADES, she runs towards it, calling eagerly.

LILI
Jack....! Ja-aack!

50 EXTERIOR PATH TO GUMP'S CAVE DAY 50

Jack and the faeries troop march through the blizzard, all SINGING merrily:

JACK & FAERIES
(singing)
If you're down, wearin' a frown,
That's the time to dance like a clown!

Jack hears something in the distance and stops to listen.

LILI (OS)
(very faint)
Ja-aack.... Ja-aack....

JACK
(bewildered)
Lili....?

The SOUND of her distant call is erased by the howling storm. Jack sadly decides it was a trick of the wind and hurries to catch up with the others.

51 EXTERIOR FOREST PATH DAY 51

Lili stops running. There is nothing but the wailing wind.

LILI
(softly)
Jack....? Oh, Jack....

A solitary tear starts from her eyes, only to freeze on her cheek like a diamond beauty spot.

LILI (CONT)
Please God....help me!

Lili drops sobbing to her knees. Through her grief, she sees the unicorn's tracks in the snow, each hoofprint gay with tiny blooming flowers.

Her courage restored, Lili follows this meandering trail of burgeoning life through the forest.

52 EXTERIOR ENTRANCE TO GUMP'S CAVE DAY 52

Gump leads the way to a huge BOULDER lodged under the roots of a giant tree.

GUMP
(proudly)
Here's my home, Jack.... What d'you think of that for a front door?

Jack thinks Gump is pulling his leg.

JACK
(in jest)
Be some job getting it open.

GUMP
Think you so?

Gump WHISTLES. Immediately, two eyes blink open on the front of the boulder, and he is seen to have facial features.

BOULDER
Morning', Gump....

The Boulder stands on a pair of tiny legs and waddles forth from under the tree roots, REVEALING the entrance to a cavern.

He promptly trips and rolls over and over in the snow, his tiny stone feet kicking wildly in the air.

GUMP
(bowing)
After you, Jack....

CONTINUED

52 CONTINUED 52

Jack enters apprehensively under the twisting roots.

JACK
Thank you....

The other faeries follow, leading the unicorn.

53 INTERIOR MOUTH TO CAVE DAY 53

An earthen antechamber under the tree, high enough for Jack and the unicorn. There is a small wooden door at the far end, sealed with a bright brass padlock.

GUMP
Brown Tom. Stay here with the unicorn and guard her well.

BROWN TOM
Like me own life!

GUMP
Better than that! She's the last of her kind.

Gump marches to the little wooden door. He inserts a finger into the padlock, twisting it like a key. Instantly, the lock pops apart. Gump opens the door and enters a low tunnel beyond.

54 INTERIOR TUNNEL DAY 54

Tree roots twist down like dead men's fingers and clutch the ancient rune stones lodged in the earthen walls.

Gump and Screwball walk upright in the damp tunnel, but Jack is forced to crawl on his hands and knees. Luna flies above their heads like a tiny neon insect.

GUMP
Right this way....

Gump pauses by another wooden door, sealed with a brass lock. He opens it instantly with his magic touch.

SCREWBALL
Home, sweet home!

55 INTERIOR GUMP'S CAVE DAY 55

Jack and the faeries enter a cosy burrow furnished with carved wooden chairs and tables, a porcelain stove and bundles of herbs hanging from the ceiling. The simple furniture is overwhelmed by vast piles of treasure: gemstones, pearls, chests heaped with gold coins.

55 CONTINUED 55

GUMP
Fit for a king's ransom!

Jack is awed as he wades through the ankle-high loot.

JACK
Such riches.... I feel I must be dreaming....

GUMP
If life is a dream, better you dread the waking!

Screwball fills a golden helmet with rubies and pours them out over his head. He laughs like a child in a sandpit.

JACK
....beautiful....

GUMP
Mere trinkets.... Let's find you something useful.

Luna's golden LIGHT streaks down and whirls around Jack's head. He swats futilely at her.

JACK
Stop it....! Go away....!

GUMP
Easy.... Luna seeks only a little affection.

Luna hovers beside Jack's cheek.

JACK
I mean no disrespect, but.... ouch! Make her stop, will you, Gump!

GUMP
Does your blood run so cold? You'll be a corpse before your time.

Gump unstoppers a silver wine decanter and pours three goblets full.

JACK
What does she want from me?

GUMP
Foolish question....
(handing Jack a goblet)
Drink, and warm your heart. The answer's at the bottom of your cup.

Jack sniffs his goblet suspiciously. This time, he is careful not to drink when the faeries do.

55 CONTINUED 55

GUMP (CONT)
Now then....down to business.

Gump pulls a bejewlled broadsword free from its scabbard. It is a remarkably beautiful weapon.

JACK
What's this....? Something to cook with?

Gump and Screwball exchange a hopeless look.

GUMP
(patiently)
This is a sword, Jack.... As fine a weapon as you'll ever see.

JACK
(curious)
So, that's a weapon.... What's it do?

SCREWBALL
World is doomed, if you ask me....

Screwball goes back to playing with the jewels.

Gump pulls a silk handkerchief from his belt.

GUMP
A little demonstration.

Gump tosses the kerchief high in the air and it wafts slowly down. The little elf is an expert swordsman. He whirls the weapon in a gleaming blur, slicing the drifting handkerchief neatly in half.

GUMP (CONT)
With such a blade you could behead an ogre as easily as uncapping a soft-boiled egg.

JACK
That's really something.... Can I try?

Gump hands the sword to Jack.

GUMP
You're the champion, aren't you?

Jack picks half the kerchief off the jewel-littered floor and tosses it into the air. As it flutters down, he swings wildly with the broadsword. Gump has to duck to avoid having his own head chopped off.

CONTINUED

55 CONTINUED 55

GUMP (CONT)
Watch out....! You'll get the hang of it in time.... Now, we best see about some armour.... Screwball!

SCREWBALL
Coming right up!

Screwball flips open the lid of a chest. Folded inside is a golden chain-mail coat of exquisite workmanship.

GUMP
Go on....see if it fits.

Jack slips the coat over his head. It fits perfectly.

GUMP (CONT)
(nodding approval)
It will turn a broadhead arrow at fifty yards.

SCREWBALL
He might pass for a champion in that.

GUMP
Have a look at yourself, Jack.
(pointing)
Use yonder shield for a mirror.

JACK
(confused)
....Shield?

GUMP
(exasperated)
The round shiny thing over there.

SCREWBALL
Clothes never made the man....

Gump silences Screwball with a stern look and stalks over to a small carved desk.

There is a loud, MUSICAL CHIME. Gump pulls a remarkable instrument from a pouch on his belt: a wondrous crystal globe filled with whirling miniature worlds.

GUMP
(studying globe)
Hmmm...getting late. Almost half-past the morning mayfly hatch....

SCREWBALL
(sullen)
Too cold for mayflies now....
'Sides, I ain't got no timepiece.

CONTINUED

55 CONTINUED 55

GUMP
You first must know how to tell the time.

SCREWBALL
I ain't got nothing....

GUMP
No more chatter....! I've work to do.

Gump sits at the desk setting his timepiece beside him and rummaging among his papers.

Jack kneels before a brightly polished shield and studies his new reflection.

Luna whirls round and round his head.

SCREWBALL
Think I'll brew some tea.

Screwball snatches various herbs off the ceiling.

SCREWBALL (CONT)
Colt's foot and sassafrass....
Maybe a spot of spearmint....
St John's Wort's not bad....and
a little foxglove.

Screwball feverishly stuffs a silver teapot full of dried herbs.

56 DELETED 56

57 EXTERIOR PATH TO GUMP'S CAVE DAY 57

The unicorn's flowering hoofprints lead Lili to Gump's cave.

She pauses to consider the situation. Snowflakes glisten in her tangled hair. She is fiercely beautiful.

Deciding nothing is amiss, Lili stalks silently inside.

58 INTERIOR MOUTH OF CAVE DAY 58

A small cooking fire flickers under blackened pots and an iron skillet. The mare unicorn is bedded down on a blanket of straw. Brown Tom lies fast asleep against her flank.

The unicorn lifts her head when Lili tiptoes in.

Brown Tom is jerked awake as the mare climbs to her feet, snorting with rage.

CONTINUED

58 CONTINUED 58

BROWN TOM
What....? What....? Who's there?

LILI
I'm Princess Lili.... I....

BROWN TOM
You! You're the cause of all our sorrow!

The Princess drops to her knees.

LILI
I know it was wrong.... Everything is my fault.
(weeping)
Please....please, forgive me.

BROWN TOM
I ain't the one ye should be asking.

LILI
I want to make it up to her.... I followed the goblins! They gave the alicorn to the Lord of Darkness!

BROWN TOM
Good lass! You're a plucky little partridge at that.

LILI
We can't stay here! It's not safe! Darkness sent the goblins to hunt the mare. If I found her, so will they.... We must go!

59 DELETED 59

60 INTERIOR MOUTH OF CAVE DAY 60

Brown Tom looks past Lili to the mouth of the cave.

BROWN TOM
Too late....!

Pox and Blix stand in the entrance, aiming their wicked, barbed arrows straight at the hearts of Lili and Brown Tom.

Brown Tom swings the iron skillet back over his head in a warrior's stance.

BROWN TOM
If you imps're looking for a fight, ye've come to the chap who'll oblige ye.

BLIX/POX
Kill....! K-k-kill....! Kill....!

60 CONTINUED 60

Blix and Pox loose their arrows, renocking the bows with incredible speed.

Brown Tom moves like lightning, using the skillet as a shield to deflect the arrows raining about him.

Lili stands in front of the mare, striving to protect the unicorn's body with her own.

Brown Tom leaps acrobatically about with the skillet. A fusillade of arrows CLANGS OFF its iron surface.

A lucky shot pierces Brown Tom's hat. Dark red liquid streams down his face. His eyes roll up in mortal terror.

BROWN TOM
Dick-o-Tuesday's duck! They've done for me!

Brown Tom staggers in a dramatic half-circle, toppling straight over backwards, stiff as a board.

The mare unicorn rears WHINNYING on her hind-quarters.

The goblin hunters advance. Blix spready a heavy net wide.

The black shadow of the net falls across Lili and the unicorn like an evil spider web.

61 INTERIOR GUMP'S CAVE DAY 61

Screwball's teapot steams merrily. He sits atop a jewel cask enjoying a cup. A horned Viking helmet several sizes too large covers his head down to the bridge of his nose.

Gump works at his desk, marking out distances on an ancient chart with a pair of golden dividers. Dozens of parchment maps are spread in front of him.

GUMP
(muttering)
Forty leagues from the Dragon's Track...another half-span past the basilisk den....

Gump lifts his elbow and the curled parchment rolls together.

GUMP (CONT)
(annoyed)
Wirrikows and dopplegangers!

SCREWBALL
Spot of tea, Gump....? Help calm your nerves....

GUMP
Not now! I'm busy with my navigation.

61 CONTINUED 61

On the other side of the cave, Jack practices a variety of thrusts and passes with his sword in front of the polished shield.

Luna buzzes around him like a miniature meteorite.

JACK
That's not so bad.... What do you think, Luna?

Jack studies his reflection in the shielf.

There is a BURST OF LIGHT behind him. Luna materialises as a child-sized woman with gossamer wings. She wraps her slender arms around his neck.

LUNA
I think you look like a hero.

JACK
What! H'd you do that?

Jack spins around, but Luna is gone. Only the tiny dot of LIGHT hovers in the air.

JACK (CONT)
(puzzled)
Magic....

Jack looks back at the shield and there is a full-sized Luna hugging his reflection.

LUNA
Nobody knows but you. It's our secret....
(kissing his cheek)
Promise?

JACK
(squirming)
Don't do that.

LUNA
(another kiss)
Better promise....

JACK
All right, all right.... I promise.

A loud, MUSICAL CHIME interrupts Gumps work. He looks around for his timepiece but it is nowhere in sight.

GUMP
Hmmmm....? Screwball!

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED 61

SCREWBALL
(all innocence)
Something I can do for you, Gump?

GUMP
Hand it over....!

Sheepishly, Screwball pulls Gump's timepiece from inside his tunic and gives it back.

SCREWBALL
Well, well, well....how'd that get in there? Must be some kinda magic....

GUMP
Sneak thief's magic!
(studies timepiece)
Jack! It's time we were on our way!

At the SOUND of Gump's voice, Luna TRANSFORMS instantly back to a dot of light.

JACK
I'm ready as I'll ever be....

Jack picks up the shield and starts after Gump and Screwball. Luna flies overhead.

62 INTERIOR MOUTH OF CAVE DAY 62

Brown Tom lies flat on his back as Jack and the faeries emerge from the tunnel.

Gump rushes to his fallen friend, lifting him in his arms.

GUMP
Brown Tom....? You can't be dead....!
Oh, this is terrible....terrible!

Brown Tom opens his eyes and looks feebly about.

BROWN TOM
(in a daze)
Why, Wisp....they kill you, too?

GUMP
Course they didn't! What in blazes are you talking about?

Brown Tom rolls his eyes up at the arrow piercing his hat.

BROWN TOM
Goblins shot me through the brain pan.

Gump yanks off Brown Tom's hat. Bits of broken wine bottle tumble out. Gump regards his friend with scorn.

CONTINUED

62 CONTINUED 62

GUMP
Your brains are one spot an arrow'd do no harm!

JACK
Where's the unicorn?

Sheepishly, Brown Tom pulls the arrow from his hat.

BROWN TOM
I'm afeered the goblins took her. Did me best to fight them off, but they swarmed up by the hundreds.... Horrid creatures, they were. The Princess warned me, but....

JACK
Princess Lili?

BROWN TOM
Aye.

JACK
(overjoyed)
She's alive!

BROWN TOM
She was living still when they killed me.

GUMP
You'll earn your champion's spurs this day, Jack.... We'll follow their tracks in the snow. Foul weather's on our side for a change.

62A EXTERIOR FOREST DAY 62A

Jack and the faeries march through the woods holding lanterns, into the teeth of a driving blizzard.

63 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 63

Blix and Pox kneel nervously before the Throne of Darkness. A huge fire blazes in the hearth.

POX
Hail m-most great, and d-d-darkest of the Dark!

BLIX
Though we be nothing in your sight, We bow before your strength and might!

We hear Darkness speak, but see only his bat-winged shadow spread like an inky cloak across the two kneeling goblins.

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED 63

DARKNESS (OS)
Can you fawning sycophants do more than grovel? What of the task I set you?

POX
D-d-done, Lord. We have the m-m-m-m-m-m....the unicorn.

DARKNESS (OS)
Where is she?

BLIX
In the dungeon like a treasure,
Awaiting your darkest pleasure.

DARKNESS (OS)
Very good.... You two are not entirely devoid of talent.

POX
There's m-m-more, Sire....

BLIX
Though unworthy of your magnificence,
Trifles without consequence,
We present with all due deference....
A gift.

DARKNESS (OS)
Gift....? What sort of gift?

BLIX
This thing you once called innocence.

DARKNESS (OS)
Innocence....? I must behold this wonder....

Darkness stares into the fire.

As Darkness grips the arm of his throne, his fingers start to melt, dripping to the dank stone floor.

64 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 64

Darkness bleeds through the groin vault ceiling, spreading like a stain across the curving stones.

Below, the unicorn is locked in a steel halter, a woven steel cable binding her to an iron windlass.

The Princess paces the dark and dripping cell. Her dress is in tatters, her hair tangled. There is something wild and free about her now, and yet she has never appeared more alluring.

The melting shadow of Darkness drips from the ceiling, forming a small demonic shape as it falls.

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED 64

We hear the BEATING of Darkness' heart in time with each evil drip. The sound grows LOUDER nad LOUDER until the echo reverberates within the vaulted chamber.

Lili is terrified. She looks frantically around as the pulsing rhythm continues. The Princess sees nothing and hugs the unicorn's neck for comfort.

64A INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 64A

Darkness contemplates the raging flames, his hearbeat THUNDERING.

65 EXTERIOR HILL ABOVE GREAT TREE BOG DAY 65

Jack and the faeries stare out at the tree-crowned ruin and surrounding bog.

65A EXTERIOR BOG DAY 65A

Jack and the faeries wade forward through drifting curtains of mist.

JACK
Legend says the Dark Castle stood in olden days when evil anarchy ruled the land.... The wicked still come here to sacrifice.

GUMP
They worship the demon....

SCREWBALL
It's ugly! I hate it!

GUMP
Good! You shall go first....

65B INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 65B

CLOSE ON: Darkness. For the briefest instant, we see the smouldering eyes of the demon GLOWING in anticipation out of the shadows.

65C EXTERIOR BOG DAY 65C

Although Jack is in no trouble, the water is rapidly growing too deep for the faeries. Gump urges Screwball forward:

GUMP
Go on! Hurry up!

SCREWBALL
All the time me. Same old story.

Screwball climbs up onto a floating lily pad.

CONTINUED

65C CONTINUED 65C

An undulating V-shaped wake moves through the water alongside as they step from lily pad to lily pad and clamber onto a long, twisting root.

Without warning, an emaciated green arm shoots out of the water and grabs Screwball. He is gone under the surface with a scream.

BROWN TOM
Screwball!

JACK
What was that?

GUMP
Big trouble!

Jack grips the hilt of his sword and rushes to the spot where Screwball disappeared.

JACK
We've got to do something.

Before Jack can finish, Meg Mucklebones rises out of the bog behind him. She tosses Screwball aside and hauls Jack into her cadaverous embrace.

MEG
Foul-tasting faerie....! Come to me, juicy boy!

Jack YELPS in horror.

MEG (CONT)
Who be this tender morsel disturbing Meg Mucklebones's rest?

JACK
(terrified)
They call me Green Jack ma'am.

The faeries watch in dismay.

BROWN TOM
Our champion's a goner, he is.

The fearsome hag pinches Jack with her wicked talons.

MEG
What a fine fat boy you are....

JACK
You don't mean to eat me, do you ma'am?

MEG
Oh, indeed I do....

CONTINUED

65C CONTINUED

65C

JACK
That would be a shame, Miss Meg. You're so lovely. You deserve far better than scrawny little me....

The flattery gives Hairy Meg pause; she simply can't resist it.

MEG
Hmmmm....think me fair, do you, Jack?

JACK
All the heavenly angels must envy your beauty.

MEG
Ooooo....what a fine meal you'll make, be the rest of you as sweet as your tongue.

JACK
Let me go and I'll sing songs of praise to you.

MEG
Let you go? Don't be daft. I've had naught but muskrat and snakes all this month....bit of rancid goblin, too....

JACK
But....but....don't you like my words?

MEG
Words are little help in filling an empty stomach....

JACK
Then fill your soul with loveliness. Look into your glass and feast on beauty.

MEG
There's no looking-glass here.... Sometimes, when the moon is full, I'll chance to see my reflection in the bog.

Jack glances at the shield hanging over his shoulder.

JACK
My shield would serve you well.

Meg Mucklebones takes Jack's shield, partially releasing him from her clammy clutches.

CONTINUED

65C CONTINUED

MEG
What a splendid idea! You be so clever, Jack.

Hanging onto Jack with one hand, Hairy Meg bends over the shield.

JACK
Your radiance is the alchemy that makes rusted steel shine like silver.

Meg primps and preens: an obscene parody of a pretty maiden at her vanity table.

MEG
Oooo! That's nice! I be the envy of any princess in the land.

While Meg is preoccupied with her grotesque reflection, Gump catches Jack's eye. The cunning elf silently mouths the word: 'sword', pointing to his waist at the same time.

JACK
Better, you are a queen without a peer....a reigning angel.

Jack nods to Gump and silently draws his sword. Meg doesn't notice thing.

MEG
You have such discerning taste for so young a boy....

Meg turns to face him with a fearful pucker of her tattered lips.

MEG (CONT)
Come, Jack....give us a kiss before dining.

Jack is petrified with fear.

GUMP
(shouting)
Give her the kiss of cold steel, Jack!

Jack swings blindly with his eyes closed. It is a lucky stroke. Meg Mucklebones' head flies from her shoulders.

JACK
(astonished)
I did it!

The decapitated hag sinks back beneath the scummy surface.

CONTINUED

65C CONTINUED 65C

GUMP
Like a champion, Jack.

BROWN TOM
Bravo!

JACK
How's Screwball?

SCREWBALL
Chewed, but not digested....

Jack points his sword at the hollow tree.

JACK
Then on to victory!

FAERIES
(all together)
On to victory!

65D INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 65D

A huge fire blazes in the gaping hearth. Darkness stands before it, almost a shadow in his midnight cloak.

DARKNESS
I've been an exile for too long....
banished by the sun....forced to
hide in the bowels of the earth....
On the eve of my greatest victory,
this....child of nature appears....
It has been an eternity since I
felt such desire.... I could
know her in an instant. She is
helpless....and yet....
(anguished)
What is wrong with me, Father?

A VOICE IN THE FIRE answers Darkness; majestic and sepulchral; the flames billow out as it speaks:

VOICE
You hold the world in your grasp....
Supreme power belongs to you....yet
your triumph is meaningless!

DARKNESS
Meaningless?

VOICE
What do you gain from it? What pleasure
comes from ruling a pack of imps and
goblins....? Souls already black....
This innocent creature fascinates you
because only she can appreciate the
enormity of your achievement.

DARKNESS
I'll take her then!

CONTINUED

65D CONTINUED 65D

VOICE
A hollow victory! She remembers the world as it was, when she loves your new order you will triumph! Woo her....win her....break her spirit....

DARKNESS
Thank you, Father.... Your wisdom is ever my guide.

VOICE
Remember.... She must desire you.... nothing else matters!

65E EXTERIOR GREAT TREE DAY 65E

Jack and the faeries step ashore on the island. Gump makes a mystical sign with his hands.

JACK
What's that?

GUMP
For our protection, Jack. You must be ready.... Remember, Darkness is a liar....a treacherous fiend! Don't listen to him. Never believe what you see....

JACK
He won't fool me.

GUMP
Don't be so sure! No human has ever set foot in this place before!

66 INTERIOR GREAT TREE DAY 66

Jack and the faeries stare up at the massive horn embedded in the inner tree.

Screwball starts to climb towards it.

SCREWBALL
What a nice big trumpet....! Bet it sounds louder than anything....

Gump hauls him back down by the seat of his pants.

GUMP
Don't touch it! Our lives are lost if it blows!

Jack finds an opening hidden between the roots of the inner tree.

JACK
In here! I've found a passage!

Jack drops inside.

66A INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 66A

The moment Jack enters the inner tree, a deep TREMOR reverberates through the subterranean Castle of Darkness.

Draped in shadows before the fire, the Dark Lord looks up at this disturbance.

DARKNESS
(to the fire)
I feel a presence....! Some power invades my sanctity....

VOICE
(from the flames)
Every wolf suffers fleas....'tis easy enough to scratch!

The flames surge out towards Darkness, embracing him.

67 INTERIOR TINY ANTECHAMBER DAY 67

Like the catacombs of Paris, the walls are decorated with bones and human skulls. At each corner of the open ceiling is a carved demonic head. Jack and the faeries stand looking up.

GUMP
(gloomily)
The decor of death....

BROWN TOM
Tells you something 'bout him what lives here.

SCREWBALL
It's a dead end....

Jack searches along the ossuary walls.

JACK
Doesn't make sense.... Check the walls. There must be some sort of secret key....

Screwball doesn't join the other faeries in the search. He is attracted by several round stone balls lying in the rubble. Picking up three with a happy grin, he begins to juggle.

SCREWBALL
One-two-three....fiddle-dee-dee....

Gump sees what Screwball is doing and flies into a rage.

GUMP
Screwball! Drop those this minute!

Screwball tosses the balls carelessly over his shoulder. One lands in the stone cornice near the ceiling and rolls along, gathering momentum as it passes through the open mouths of each gargoyle.

CONTINUED

67 CONTINUED 67

The ball disappears into the mouth of the final gargoyle. It is swallowed with an emphatic GULP.

All at once, the roof slides shut above.

BROWN TOM
(alarmed)
Newt-finger marmalade!

The floor pulls suddenly open and they all plummet SCREAMING into empty space. Luna circles, a dot of light above the bottomless pit.

LUNA
(wee voice)
Oh, dear.... Oh, dear....

The tiny faerie whirls in a blur of indecision before streaking down into the dark opening after her falling friends.

68 INTERIOR CAVE CHUTE DAY 68

Like prisoners on a fairground helter-skelter, Jack and the faeries spin down a seemingly endless curving chute.

GUMP
(singing)
When times're hard and things look bad,
Don't feel blue and don't feel sad....

JACK
How can you sing at a time like this?

GUMP
Can you think of anything better to do?

They hurtle through festooned cobwebs, stirring up smokey clouds of ancient dust.

69 INTERIOR CAGE AND ALCOVE DAY 69

The end of the chute opens into an iron cage. Jack and the faeries tumble through onto a pile of straw. Luna is right behind, bright as a firefly.

BROWN TOM
Ouch! Ow!

SCREWBALL
Where are we?

Gump stares woefully at the iron bars.

GUMP
Some place we don't want to be!

69 CONTINUED 69

A scuffling NOISE in the far side of the cage attracts their attention. Blunder pops up from under a pile of straw, still wearing his helmet.

BLUNDER
Shhhh! What is this? A chatterbox convention?

SCREWBALL
Who be you, bucket-head?

GUMP
Stay clear of that imp! He's a hell-hound goblin!

BLUNDER
What I am won't help me none, nor you neither....

Blunder pulls off his helmet. He is Screwball's identical twin!

BLUNDER (CONT)
....even if you is my brother!

Screwball can't believe his eyes.

SCREWBALL
(astonished)
Blunder....!

BLUNDER
Screwball....!

They rush into each other's arms.

GUMP
(to Jack)
A Buttercup family reunion....! I can't believe it.... Last I remember, he sold Screwball a jug of dragon's tears that turned out to be cow piss!

SCREWBALL
What happened to you?

BLUNDER
(flexing his bird claw)
It's a long story.... Let's just say I went looking for adventure and found more'n I could handle.... Doesn't matter now anyway.... We're all of us in the same fix....

JACK
Just what sort of fix is that?

CONTINUED

69 CONTINUED 69

BLUNDER
The kitchen of the Lord of Darkness! All of us be on his menu!

SCREWBALL
I knew it! I knew it! Should of stayed at home....

BLUNDER
That's right, brother, me'n you is barbeque!

BROWN TOM
Wish I had a drink....

JACK
Only dead meat waits for the stewpot! Spring the lock, Gump!

Gump examines the huge padlock with a frown.

GUMP
(wearily)
Iron is sore trouble for elves.

SCREWBALL
Magic's no good against it.

Jack slumps down in the corner to think things over. The faeries mill about by the opposite wall.

Jack stares at the bars. Luna orbits around his head.

JACK
I know I promised....but it's the only way....

Luna buzzes him furiously.

JACK (CONT)
Sure it's a secret.... It'll keep forever when we're all dead....

Jack glances guiltily at the whirling dot of LIGHT.

JACK (CONT)
(to Gump)
Why not have Luna fly out between the bars and find a key?

GUMP
(shaking his head)
She's much too small....could never lift it....

JACK
(blurting it out)
Not if she changes size like she can!

CONTINUED

69 CONTINUED 69

GUMP
What?

There is a bright FLASH of faerie-light and Luna stands full-sized before them, her gossamer wings a-tremble.

GUMP (CONT)
(outraged)
You wilful sprite! How dare you keep such secrets?

LUNA
They're mine to keep! But, I'll do what you ask....if you kiss me, Jack.

JACK
That's easy enough.

Jack kisses her chastely on the cheek.

LUNA
Call that a kiss....? Am I not sweet?

JACK
(eager to please)
Sweeter than bee pollen on a summer wind.

Luna moves in close to Jack.

LUNA
Sweet is the wind that blows me to you....

Jack gently pushes her away.

JACK
It's not possible. I'm in love....

LUNA
A faerie's love makes anything possible....

A soft cocoon of faerie LIGHT engulfs Luna. She metamorphoses within it, emerging as Princess Lili.

LUNA/LILI
....even your heart's desire.

Luna/Lili embraces Jack. It is sweet and tempting.

JACK
(resisting)
No....this isn't real....

Screwball and Blunder giggle and snigger.

CONTINUED

69 CONTINUED

LUNA/LILI
Oh, but it is.... I'm warm and alive and happy to be in your arms.

Jack is nearly enchanted, but after a delicious moment, he pushes away.

JACK
I can't do it....! This is faerie glamour!

A brilliant aura of faerie LIGHT envelops Luna/Lili and she TRANSEORMS into her true winged form.

LUNA
(bitterly)
You....! You....mortal! I could vex you! Dance your life away!

JACK
Threats can't make me love you. Human hearts don't work that way.

LUNA
What care I for the human heart? Soft and spiritless as porridge! A faerie's heart beats fierce and free.

There is a furious pyrotechnic whirlwind and, in an instant, Luna returns to a tiny dot of LIGHT.

JACK
Luna....?

Without an answer, Luna flies out between the iron bars.

JACK (CONT)
(to the faeries)
I....didn't mean to hurt her.

GUMP
(scornful)
Your fine sensibilities have left us here to rot.

The SOUND of heavy footsteps approaches, accompanied by rough, tuneless SINGING.

COOK (OS)
....this li'l piggie went to market.... anudder li'l piggie got eat....pig-meat pie, l'l piggie die....

BLUNDER
Oh, no! He's coming....! Hide! Hide! Hide!

Blunder conceals himself under a pile of straw. A deformed shadow is cast across the cage.

69 CONTINUED 69

SCREWBALL
Blunder's got the right idea!

Screwball hides in the straw. Jack and the others immediately do the same.

A fiendish demon COOK opens the cage door. He is ten feet tall and unspeakably ugly. He peers blindly inside, sniffing the air with his hideous nose.

COOK
....pig-pig-pig....

The Cook gropes inside the cage.

The Cook reaches deep into the straw pile in the corner and grabs Blunder.

BLUNDER
Help....! Lemme go....? Turn me loose, you tub o' guts!

The Cook hauls Blunder out, kicking and screaming. He locks the cage and stumps away.

BLUNDER (CONT)
Hope I give you heart-burn!

After a bit, the faeries and Jack peer up out of the straw.

SCREWBALL
(woefully)
Fricasséed faeries, the lot of us....

BROWN TOM
Lambs to the slaughter....

Jack draws his sword.

JACK
Not without a fight!

Transformed back to full size, Luna tiptoes into the alcove outside the cage, her hands coyly behind her.

GUMP
Luna....!

LUNA
(maliciously)
You look like mourners at your own funeral.

GUMP
(angry)
Come back to dance on our graves!

LUNA
I'd gladly frolic on Jack's....

She LAUGHS and holds up a large iron key.

69 CONTINUED 69

LUNA (CONT)
....but this cage shan't be your tomb!

Luna tosses the key in to Gump. Instantly, she reduces to a tiny dot of LIGHT and flies out of the alcove.

GUMP
Well done!

Gump unlocks the barred door and they all clamber out. Screwball steps on Brown Tom's head in his eagerness.

SCREWBALL
Lemme outta this stink hole!

BROWN TOM
Mind your bleeding foot!

GUMP
Shhhh!

Jack is last of all.

JACK
Keep behind me in case there's trouble.

Sword in hand, Jack leads the faeries out of the alcove into the kitchen.

70 INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 70

Huge ovens belch fire and smoke. The vast hearth blazes. Like the lower reaches of Hell, the Dark Lord's kitchen is a place where all hope is abandoned.

Jack and the faeries creep through the brimstone haze.

BROWN TOM
Terrible sight for a sober man to see....

JACK
Quiet!

The demon Cook blocks the way, chopping meat with a monstrous cleaver. A SECOND COOK, every bit as terrifying, SNORES by the hearth. Trussed to a spit, Blunder hangs upside-down nearby.

Jack motions the faeries on. The blind Cook turns towards them, sniffing the air.

COOK
Whut be there?

Jack and the faeries duck behind a huge bellows.

CONTINUED

70 CONTINUED 70

SCREWBALL
....Back in the frying pan!

Gump clamps his hand over Screwball's mouth.

Grasping his cleaver, the Cook advances towards them.

COOK
(sniffing)
Be it live victuals?

From where he hangs, Blunder sees the faeries' plight.

BLUNDER
(calling out)
Hey....! Lard belly!

The Cook turns, angered at this insult.

COOK
Whut say, pip-squeak?

BLUNDER
Two things down here look just alike!

COOK
Wuzzat?

BLUNDER
Your face and my ass!

The Cook GROWLS with fury.

COOK
Bash in you face! Den it no be so pretty!

The Cook backhands poor Blunder, smacking him about like a punching-bag.

Jack and the faeries make a break for the exit.

Blunder manages to work one arm free from his bonds.

COOK (CONT)
Whut you got to say now, pork pie?

Blunder rears back and punches the Cook on the jaw. Stunned, he topples over backwards with a great CRASH.

70A INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 70A

The reverberations TREMBLE through the immense underground castle. Darkness listens by the fire.

CONTINUED

70A CONTINUED 70A

DARKNESS
Do you feel it, Father....? A force....loose in my domain....

VOICE
(out of fire)
Guard well what is yours!

DARKNESS
(roaring)
BRING INNOCENCE TO ME!

71 INTERIOR KITCHEN CORRIDOR DAY 71

The faerie band gathers in the foul, dripping corridor. Irregular torchlight casts a lurid glow across the broken stones.

BROWN TOM
(gasping for breath)
....saved....by a goblin.... Never thought....I'd see....the day....

JACK
Wish we could repay the favour!

SCREWBALL
My brother can take care of himself.

GUMP
Screwball's right! It's more important that we find the unicorn.

JACK
And Lili!

BROWN TOM
Where do we start?

GUMP
We must find the dungeons. Legend has it they house such sorrow that death is a gift....albeit one rarely granted.

Screwball sits down defiantly.

SCREWBALL
Think I'll stay right here, thank you very much.

Gump grabs hold of Screwball's ear and hauls him back up.

GUMP
Not so fast! You search with the rest of us!

Screwball hugs Jack's leg.

CONTINUED

71 CONTINUED 71

SCREWBALL
All right! I'm going with Jack!

GUMP
No you won't. Be faster if we split up.

Screwball looks both ways, deciding which seems safest.

SCREWBALL
Fine! I'm going this way!

BROWN TOM
I'm going that way!

They both turn and collide, falling flat on their rumps.

JACK
Wait....! Better to search in teams, Gump and me together. Brown Tom, you and Screwball look in the other direction.

Gump hauls out his ornate mechanical timepiece.

GUMP
Right! Let's synchronise! We meet back here in twice five hundred beats of a bluebird's heart.

Brown Tom takes a similar timepiece from under his tunic and studies its intricate interior.

BROWN TOM
Best to allow another couple dozen butterfly breaths in case we get thirs....er, get lost....

GUMP
No grog shops down here, Brown Tom.

JACK
Let's hurry!

Jack and Gump run off along the corridor, followed by Luna's glowing LIGHT. Screwball watches without moving.

SCREWBALL
Know what I want to know?

BROWN TOM
What?

SCREWBALL
Why me?

Brown Tom gives Screwball a swift kick in his rear.

CONTINUED

71 CONTINUED 71

BROWN TOM
Why not?

The two little elves scamper off together.

SCREWBALL
I hate it....I hate it....I hate it....

72 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 72

The iron-studded dungeon doors swing magically open as Lili watches, her eyes aglow with animal fire. She crouches beside the unicorn, resting on her haunches in an easy feline fashion.

Lili rises like a sleepwalker, unable to resist the compulsion luring her toward the open doorway.

The chained unicorn WHINNIES pitifully. Princess Lili looks back without expression as she leaves.

73 DELETED 73

74 DELETED 74

75 INTERIOR ANOTHER CORRIDOR DAY 75

Luna's bobbing LIGHT leads the way as Jack and Gump hurry along the rubble-choked corridor. Alerted by the SOUND of something approaching, they dart into the shadows.

GUMP
Quick, Jack!

Jack and Gump watch in horror as a cracked EGG the size of a watermelon runs down the corridor on armour-scaled chicken legs, led on either side by a Demon holding a chain leash.

Jack draws his sword. The Demons stop and the Egg begins to crack.

JACK
I'll scramble that one!

Gump restrains him. The Egg cracks apart.

GUMP
Don't trust your eyes! All is enchanted here.

The Egg breaks into pieces and a dripping winged monster emerges; a diabolic cross between a bat and a pterodactyl. It emits a fearsome SHRIEK and flies off down the corridor followed by the twin attendant Demons.

Jack and Gump hurry on in the opposite direction.

75A INTERIOR DUNGEON CORRIDOR DAY 75A

Screwball and Brown Tom creep timorously forward. They are alerted by the SOUNDS of something approaching. A hideously deformed shadow falls across the opposite wall.

The two faeries clutch each other in terror and duck into the shadows.

It is Princess Lili! She passes the elves' hiding place as if in a trance.

76 INTERIOR VIADUCT DAY 76

Jack and Gump emerge on a narrow span arching across the vast central keep of the underground castle. Similar viaducts, above and below, bridge the awesome chasm.

The Green Man and the faerie gawk at the sheer magnitude of it all.

JACK
Not even kings live like this....

On a span high above, Jack sees Princess Lili drifting by like a somnabulist.

JACK (CONT)
My God! Gump, look! It's Lili!

GUMP
Don't believe it, Jack.

JACK
(yelling)
Lili!

The SOUND ECHOES through the vast space.

77 INTERIOR LILI'S VIADUCT DAY 77

The Princess pauses. A section of parapet has broken off and she wanders to the edge, staring down into the void. For a precarious moment, she teeters on the brink, seemingly about to fall.

JACK (OS)
(calling)
Li-li!

The Princess does not respond, wobbling like a dreamer on the narrow edge of disaster. She leans against the ruined parapet and a big chunk of masonry breaks away, tumbling and bouncing into the abyss.

JACK (CONT) (OS)
(calling)
It's Ja-ack!

Lili's face is blank. She turns and continues blindly on her way.

78 INTERIOR VIADUCT DAY 78

Jack stares up at Lili's retreating form.

JACK
It's her. I know it.

GUMP
Don't be so hasty! Remember who we're dealing with.

JACK
I've got to reach her!

Jack races off. Gump runs along behind.

78A INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 78A

The shadowy figure of Darkness looms over a band of deformed PYGMIES with needle-sharp teeth and wickedly curved talons long as pitchfork tines.

DARKNESS
My enemies approach....destroy them!

Darkness points an evil finger and the Pygmies scurry CACKLING off.

79 DELETED 79

80 INTERIOR LILI'S VIADUCT DAY 80

Jack and Gump hurry out onto the arching span. The Princess is nowhere in sight.

GUMP
(running after)
Slow down....! Use some caution....!

JACK
This way!

Jack runs on into the corridor in the direction taken by Lili. Gump follows after.

81 INTERIOR RAIN CORRIDOR DAY 81

Lili wanders down a long colonnade hung with dangling vine-like roots. A glistening magic rain falls from the granite ceiling. Her blank eyes stare straight ahead.

Jack and Gump appear at the opposite end of the passage in time to see the Princess drift out of sight.

JACK
There she is....! Lili....!

81 CONTINUED 81

Jack and Gump run to catch up, pushing through root tendrils agleam with rain. Suddenly, they are attacked by SCREAMING Pygmies.

GUMP
Jack!

JACK
(drawing his sword)
Demons!

The nimble Pygmies leap about them, lethal talons slashing through the drizzle.

Jack and Gump retreat, backing between clingling rootlets.

GUMP
Quick! In here!

Gump yanks open a heavy oaken door in the side wall and they duck inside, slamming it shut in the teeth of the attacking Pygmies.

81A INTERIOR SEALED CORRIDOR DAY 81A

Jack strains against the door handle, struggling to keep the portal shut tight. There is less space than in a closet. The corridor behind them is completely bricked over.

GUMP
Trapped....!

CLOSE ON DOOR: With great force, the Pygmies' claws stab through the thick wood like stilettos. Their needle tips are mere inches from Jack and Gump.

The door's inner surface is studded with talons. Jack suddenly SLAMS the door open with such force that it swings into the side wall with a loud CRASH.

The Pygmies' frenzied SHRIEKING ends in abrupt SILENCE.

Jack and Gump peer cautiously out.

81B INTERIOR RAIN CORRIDOR DAY 81B

The Pygmies hang unconscious on the other side of the door, dangling from their imbedded talons.

JACK
Come on !

Jack and Gump run into the rain.

82 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 82

Jack and Gump hurry around the corner just as Lili heads towards a pair of massive doors swinging slowly open at her approach.

CONTINUED

82 CONTINUED 82

JACK
(calling)
Lili! Wait!

Gump grabs Jack's arm and yanks him to a stop.

GUMP
Don't be daft! She's under a spell!

Lili enters and the doors swing closed behind her.

83 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 83

An enormous chamber draped with black cloth and surrounded by tall Baroque columns. Winged demons writhe in the shadows above. A long black table reaches down the centre of the room. All is lit by firelight. The gaping hearth, with its entablature of monumental sculpture, is flanked by a pair of massive ebony thrones, carved in a hideous, twisting mass of tendons, sinews and museles.

When the imposing doors swing closed, Lili's spell is broken. She stares in terror at her new surroundings.

Something weird and mysterious approaches from out of the draped shadows. It is a magnificent high-collared black gown, waltzing like a ghost across the black marble floor. There is no one wearing the garment!

Fascinated, Lili watches the dress circle towards her. She finds it irresistible. Taking hold of the gown's empty sleeves she begins to dance, spinning round and round to the impulsive music.

84 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 84

Jack paces back and forth in front of the the sealed doors.

JACK
Why did you stop me?

GUMP
We best reconnoitre. What if it's a trap?

Gump and Jack strain to see through the crack between the doors.

85 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 85

Lili dances by herself, turning slow dreamy circles before the blazing fire. She is now WEARING the splendid black gown!

Reflected firelight GLITTERS in the shadows. An open jewel box spills its sparkling treasure onto an ornate table. Lili is lured like a moth to the flame.

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED 85

She steps up onto an oversized footstool by the table. The ebony casket brims with gemstones. Lili's eyes dazzle. A carved ebony figure of a skeleton turns slowly out of the centre, holding in its uplifted arms the most exquisite black diamond necklace the mind can imagine.

The Princess sucks in her breath. The temptation is too great. She impulsively takes the necklace and hops down from the stool.

The high collar of her gown makes fastening the clasp difficult and, without thinking, she backs towards the wall, fumbling behind her neck.

She leans against a sculpted marble frieze of souls in torment, concentrating on the trickly clasp. All at once, a piece of sculpture becomes ANIMATE. Powerful arms reach out to fasten the necklace. For a moment, Lili doesn't notice, grateful for the help. Then, she realises what is happening and SCREAMS.

The muscular black arms reach for her as she pulls away in terror. Lili turns to run, but is stopped short by her reflection in a tall cheval glass mirror.

Lili's feminine curiosity is aroused. The Princess overcomes her fear and approaches the mirror. She looks furtively about, making certain she is unobserved. Alone, she admires her perfect image.

CLOSE ON MIRROR : Beneath Lili's pleased expression we see the evil face of Darkness APPEAR like a man emerging from under water.

Darkness penetrates the surface of the mirror.

Lili backs away, GASPING soundlessly with terror.

Darkness steps forth through the glass into the room, clad in black finery.

Lili staggers. Darkness reaches to embrace her and the Princess SHRIEKS at the top of her lungs. The moment he touches her shoulder, she slumps to the floor, unconscious.

Darkness stands over the fallen girl, his hearbeat pulsing like muffled thunder. Something almost like a smile creases his hideous features as he rolls a lock of Lili's hair between his clawed fingers.

The Princess blinks and opens her eys. She is horrified to find Darkness kneeling over her and frantically tries to get away.

DARKNESS
Do not be afraid, lady....

Lili GASPS like a stranded fish. She is catatonic with fear.

DARKNESS (CONT)
I mean you no harm.

85 CONTINUED 85

Darkness offers the Princess his hand.

DARKNESS (CONT)
How like you my gifts....? Does the gown not please you? Come.... tell me....

Lili's terror renders her speechless.

DARKNESS (CONT)
The colour is most suitable....We sanctify the death of the old world and the birth of a new order.... You are the guest of honour.

Lili WEEPS and tugs at the black dress.

LILI
....of dishonour....! Take this away.... Please! I beg you!

Darkness advances on Lili. The slow kettledrum THROB of his heart underscores his words.

DARKNESS
Your soul is like some dark nectar.... I cannot rest until I taste its sweetness.

LILI
(frantic)
Never! I hate you! I hate this dress!

DARKNESS
Can you speak so of your bridal gown....?

LILI
(screaming)
Noooooooooo!

86 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 86

Jack and Gump listen by the closed doors to Lili's piercing SCREAM (OS). Jack is desperate and half-draws his sword from the scabbard.

JACK
What has he done to her?

Gump restrains the boy.

GUMP
You have no power to stop it.... Be thankful she lives.

Jack shoves his sword back in disgust.

CONTINUED

86 CONTINUED 86

JACK
(bitterly?
Some champion.... What good is this fancy sword?

GULP
It's not the sword that counts, but the man who swings it....

87 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 87

Lili slumps to the cold stone floor, WEEPING. Darkness bends solicitously over her.

DARKNESS
Why the tears?

LILI
(sobbing)
....everything is lost....poor Jack....

DARKNESS
Why weep for him? He left you alone to die!

LILI
No! He'd never do that! He was killed....like everything else....

DARKNESS
(glancing over his shoulder)
Yes....but why mourn? You have a new and grander destiny!

LILI
Consort of some cowardly vile toad who slinks through the night!

DARKNESS
Not so! I require the shadow's solace and the dark of night.... Sunshine is my destroyer!

LILI
(scornful)
You think you're so powerful....and hide in the ground like a mole!

DARKNESS
(smiling)
This too will change. The last unicorn dies tonight....! As her blood ebbs, the sun sets forever. There shall never be another dawn!

LILI
(horrified)
No....! You can't.... You mustn't....

Darkness thows back his evil head and LAUGHS.

88 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 88

The demonic LAUGHTER of Darkness carries through the massive doors.

JACK
He means to kill the mare, Gump!

GUMP
Don't mourn the corpse 'til the coffin's in the ground.

DARKNESS (OS)
My dominion shall encompass the eternal night!

GUMP
As long as the sun still shines, so does hope!

JACK
(bitterly)
Sun doesn't shine down here.

Jack fingers Lili's silver medallion hanging around his neck and from out of the blue, inspiration strikes.

JACK (CONT)
(grinning)
Wait a minute....! I think I know a way.

89 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 89

Lili stares at Darkness with terror and loathing.

DARKNESS
The world shall be at last as nature intended....a place of chaos and anarchy!

LILI
You're mad!

DARKNESS
Aye, Lady, and proud to be so! For in madness lies the soul of all that's noble.... Can you fathom the loneliness of untold eons lived in darkness? My spirit was forged in that black fire....

LILI
You live alone because you are loathsome! The contagion of your wicked heart demands isolation.

DARKNESS
Nay, mistress. I've found my true mate and you know it. We're just alike, you and I. Beneath the skin we are already one.

89 CONTINUED 89

LILI
Never!

DARKNESS
'Twas your sin trapped the unicorn. Even now, the evil seed of what you've done blooms within you!

LILI
(shrieking)
You lie! You're repulsive!

DARKNESS
(stung by her words)
No more so than you! Can't you sense it? That is why I desire you. I need someone to share the dark secrets of my soul.

LILI
You....? You disgust me! You're nothing but a beast!

DARKNESS
Everyone is a beast....only most are afraid to see it!

Darkness compels Lili over to the mirror with the force of his will.

90 LILI'S POV : MIRROR 90

Lili sees her reflection in the glass. The lovely feminine features ALTER into those of a cat-like beast.

DARKNESS (OS)
This mirror shows how we really are.... Behold your true reflection.

91 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 91

Lili pulls free from his grasp and turns from the glass. Her face remains lovely and unchanged.

LILI
(frantic)
No! You're working magic on me! I won't believe it!

DARKNESS
My Lady misjudges me. I am no common trickster....look at your hands!

Lili's fingers transform before her eyes: hooked claws spring from their tips, coarse black hair pushes through the skin.

DARKNESS (CONT)
(laughing)
My mirror never lies.

91 CONTINUED 91

Lili's lovely face undergoes the same transmutation she witnessed in the mirror. She feels fur-covered sheeks and pointed ears. This time, her SCREAM is hysterical.

Darkness places a protective arm around Lili.

DARKNESS (CONT)
Glory in your animal nature. It is your triumph!

LILI
I'm hideous!

DARKNESS
No! The puling, pallid creature you were was truly something disgusting. Now you are magnificent....a fierce goddess!

Lili jerks away, HISSING and showing her claws.

LILI
Damn you!

DARKNESS
We are both of us damned, my Queen.

Darkness bows with mock formality, ALTERING into his own shadows, which slides through a crack between the paving stones.

Lili cannot resist her reflection. Horrified anew, she falls to the floor, WEEPING.

91A EXTERIOR SKY DAY 91A

Round and red, the great disc of the setting sun slides towards the distant horizon.

92 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTISDE GREAT HALL DAY 92

Crazed by anxiety, Jack finds the keyhole and cups his hands around it.

JACK
(calling out)
Lili....? Can you hear me....?

93 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 93

Lili huddles WEEPING on the cold stones.

JACK (OS)
....Lili....?

At the sound of Jack's voice, the Princess looks up with a start.

CONTINUED

93 CONTINUED 93

LILI
....Jack?

JACK (OS)
Over here.... By the door....

Lili turns eagerly towards the door.

LILI
Oh, Jack....dear Jack! Can it really be you? I was afraid you were dead.

93A INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 93A

JACK
Thank God you're all right! I didn't know what to do.... I never want to lose you again....

93B INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 93B

Lili pauses before the keyhole, out of Jack's line of sight.

LILI
Jack, my love...my precious love! I pray it's you and not more wicked magic.

93C INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL 93C

JACK
It's me, you can be sure of that.... and there's magic on our side, too.

93D INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 93D

LILI
It's all my fault....the unicorn.... everything....

JACK (OS)
My fault as much as yours.... Don't worry. We're here to save you.

LILI
(sadly)
I'm far past saving, sweet Jack....

A huge tear wells in Lili's eye and flies out toward the keyhole, defying gravity.

94 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 94

Lili's tear flies through the keyhole and strikes Jack's face like a horizontal raindrop. He touches the spot curiously.

94 CONTINUED 94

GUMP
(amazed)
How did you do that?

JACK
(to Gump)
I didn't do anything....
(into keyhole)
Let me see your face. It will give me hope....

Jack strains to see through the keyhole.

95 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 95

Lili stares at the keyhole in horror.

JACK (OS)
....just to glimpse your smile....

LILI
(grief-stricken)
No.... I can't....forget me, Jack....

The Princess reaches out her animal's paw and covers the keyhole.

96 INTERIOR CORRIDOR OUTSIDE GREAT HALL DAY 96

As the LIGHT in the opening grows DARK, Jack tenderly places his hand next to Lili's.

JACK
Lili....? I love you....

Gump pulls frantically on Jack's arm.

GUMP
Come, Jack. We've no time to spare.... Remember your plan?

Sadly, Jack takes his hand from the keyhole and follows Gump back along the corridor.

97 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 97

Princess Lili lies SOBBING. High above, the winged figures watch her. The music THROBS, underscoring a low, rhythmic CHANTING. Like some ghastly chorus from Hell, the living statuary SINGS in unison to Lili:

STATUARY
(singing)
Bride of Night....Bride of Night....
Darkness is your heart's delight!
Hail to Darkness! Hail the Night!
His the Power and the Might!
Master of Chaos, Lord of Doom,
Sing his praises from the tomb!

97 CONTINUED 97

Lili lifts her head, listening to the sepulchral SINGING. Her eyes burn like a tiger's. She bares her fangs, and from her throat issues a bone-chilling HOWL.

98 INTERIOR DUNGEON CORRIDOR DAY 98

Screwball and Brown Tom stop short in their tracks when the SOUND of a distant HOWL echoes in the shadows.

SCREWBALL
(trembling)
I vote we run like hell!

The two faeries scamper off into darkness.

99 INTERIOR KITCHEN CORRIDOR DAY 99

Gump, Jack and a woman-sized Luna wait outside the kitchen door as Brown Tom and Screwball come running up. Gump studies his ornate timepiece.

GUMP
Where were you? In another three flicks of a badger's tail it'll be half-past.

SCREWBALL
Sorry....time slips away when you're having so much fun.

BROWN TOM
(out of breath)
We....found the mare....chained.... in a dungeon below.

Gump shoves his timepiece back into his belt.

GUMP
Excellent.... Who has a bit of parchment?

The two faeries search in their clothing. Screwball produces a plethora of trash: marbles, string, old doll's eyes, coloured bird's eggs, ancient coins, etc. At last he finds a crumpled scrap of sheepskin.

SCREWBALL
Here.... I was saving it to write me will on.

BROWN TOM
Where there's a will there's a....

GUMP
Shush, both of you....! Jack has a plan....a good one....

Gump squats on the floor, and, using a triangle and some charcoal, divides the parchment into mysterious lines and angles.

99 CONTINUED 99

GUMP (CONT)
(mumbling)
....angle of refraction equals.... angle of incidence....multiplied by a factor of forty....divided by the square root of a google-plex....

Gump SNAPS his fingers triumphantly.

GUMP (CONT)
Perfect! It will work like a charm, Jack!

JACK
Let's get started! What we need to do is sneak back into the kitchen and gather all the plates and platters....

SCREWBALL
Oh no! Not me! Seen enough of that kitchen, I have!

BROWN TOM
Don't be so pig-headed! You can trust Gump.

SCREWBALL
I'd sooner trust a rat in the ghetto!

BROWN TOM
Well....trust Jack then.

Jack eases open the kitchen door.

JACK
Remember....just the shiny ones....

Jack leads the way back into the kitchen. Gump urges the other two to follow.

GUMP
....and be quiet! Soft as thistledown, that's the faerie way.

100 INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 100

Jack and the faeries tiptoe cautiously into the kitchen.

Both Demon Cooks are fast asleep, the one encountered first is stretched out across his chopping block, SNORING like a dragon with indigestion.

The unfortunate Blunder turns slowly over the coals, hog-tied to a spit. A bright red apple is stuffed in his mouth. Jack and Gump rush to his side.

Gump pulls the apple from Blunder's mouth.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED 100

BLUNDER
(frantic)
Get me outta here! Please! While I'm still medium rare!

GUMP
Quiet....! You're a free imp on one condition....

BLUNDER
(very loud)
Condition....! What condition? Loose me or I'll make such....

Gump shoves the apple back into Blunder's mouth, stoppering his loud complaint.

GUMP
Any more noise and you're shish-ka-bob....

Blunder nods eagerly.

GUMP (CONT)
You do what we tell you....understand?

More eager nodding from Blunder.

GUMP (CONT)
Swear it!

Gump pulls the apple out of Blunder's mouth.

BLUNDER
(desperate)
I swear! On the festering forelock of Nicodemus!

Jack cuts Blunder's bonds and the little imp hops nimbly out of the fireplace.

BLUNDER
A thousand thanks....

Jack boosts Gump and Screwball up onto the mantle where the polished plates are stacked.

JACK
Up we go!

Luna TRANSFORMS into a dot of LIGHT and flies up to the chimney piece, REMATERIALISING there in her full size.

JACK (CONT)
Your turn, Blunder.

Jack lifts Blunder onto his shoulders so he can climb to the first level of the three-tiered mantle. Blunder joins Screwball, Gump and Luna as they rush about the mantlepiece, frantically gathering shield-sized plates.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED 100

One by one, the faeries toss the plates down to Jack, who stacks them in Brown Tom's arms.

Brown Tom staggers through the kitchen carrying a teetering tower of plates. He can't see where he is going and trips over the nozzle of the giant bellows.

The plates fall with a deafening CRASH!

Both ferocious blind Cooks are awakened by the NOISE.

SECOND COOK
Huh....! Wuzzat?

Jack and the faeries freeze in place as the Cook rises and pulls his huge cleaver from the chopping block.

COOK
(sniffing the air)
Meat....! Me smells fresh meat!

Jack draws his sword and steps between the awesome Cook and Brown Tom, sprawled helplessly on the floor.

SECOND COOK
Find meat!

JACK
Over here!

The blind Cook lunges for Jack. He wields his deadly cleaver with amazing accuracy for one without sight.

COOK
Chop it up!

Jack ducks past the Cook, smacking him on the leg with the flat of his blade. The huge demon YELPS with pain.

The Second Cook picks up a skillet, wielding it like a club.

SECOND COOK
Smash....! Me smash!

Jack is caught between the two demon Cooks. He cannot face one without turning his back on the other.

Gump sees Jack's predicament and leaps from the mantle onto the Second Cook's head with a wild CRY:

GUMP
Schweinhundt!

Gump clings to the Second Cook like a terrier, confusing him and giving Jack time to dart acrobatically out of the way.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED 100

JACK
(jabbing the Cook)
Gotcha!

COOK
Cut you in half!

A mighty swing from the Cook misses Jack, who executes a nimble back-flip. The Cook cleaves through a hanging side of meat by mistake.

The Second Cook grabs hold of Gump and shakes him.

SECOND COOK
Sweet, sweet blood....

Up on the mantle, Screwball and Blunder exchange a helpless look. Gump is a goner unless they do something. They reach a simultaneous unspoken conclusion, and leap onto the Second Cook's back.

SCREWBALL
(calling out)
Rooster-toes....!

BLUNDER
(calling out)
....pig-whiskers!

Faced with this new twin threat, the Second Cook drops Gump, who immediately bites him on the leg.

SECOND COOK
Whut....! Who now? Ouch!

Jack fights a rearguard action, stabbing at the savage Cook as he retreats.

JACK
Best you can do?

COOK
You gonna be mince-meat!

Jack backs onto a steep stone ramp against the far wall.

JACK
Got to catch me first!

The Cook's cleaver CLANGS against the ramp, missing Jack by inches.

The Second Cook has his hands full. Brown Tom has joined the fray and clings onto his other leg while Blunder and Screwball claw and punch at his head.

SCREWBALL & BLUNDER
Hit him...! Sock him....!

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED 100

Staggering under the full weight of the faerie onslaught, the Second Cook lurches in circles.

SECOND COOK
Kill....! Smash....!

Furious, the Second Cook swings his heavy skillet at Screwball and Blunder. He misses them completely, hitting himself square on the head and knocking himself out.

The faeries leap off as the demon topples backwards into the fireplace.

GUMP
We must help Jack!

The faeries race to the foot of the ramp. Jack parries the Cook's fearsome swing. The Cook presses him relentlessly. The CLASH of steel rings through the cavernous kitchen.

The faeries start up the ramp like a tiny cheering section.

BLUNDER
Stick him a good one!

SCREWBALL
Cut him down to size, Jack!

Giant wine barrels are stacked at the top of the ramp. The Cook backs Jack against them. There is no room for further retreat.

COOK
Gonna spill your guts, boy.

The Cook swings his cleaver from the hip. Jack nimbly springs out of harm's way. The cleaver drives full force into one of the chocks supporting the pyramid of wine barrels.

GRUMBLING, the Cook yanks his cleaver free. This pulls the chock loose from under the bottom barrel.

COOK (CONT)
(listening)
Wuzzat....?

The entire stack of barrels shifts, rolling towards the Cook.

COOK (CONT)
Bad news....!

The Cook runs for his life. The huge hogsheads RUMBLE forward in a wooden avalanche.

Jack crouches at the top of the ramp. As the Cook runs past he sticks the sword-blade between his legs and trips him up.

The Cook tumbles, head over heels, down the ramp.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED 100

Half-way up, the faerie band sees the giant barrels ROLLING towards them.

SCREWBALL
(horrified)
Sodom and Glockamorra!

The faeries turn and run.

The barrels CRASH on top of the fallen Cook, knocking him senseless as they CONTINUE rolling.

The faeries dive for cover into the arched opening of the kitchen doorway at the bottom of the ramp.

The barrels CRUNCH into the kitchen wall. Because they are larger than the doorway, the faeries crouching inside are spared.

Oceans of wine flood out in a dark tidal wave, forcing the door and washing the little people into the corridor beyond.

101 INTERIOR KITCHEN CORRIDOR DAY 101

Brown Tom is beside himself with delight. He scoops up wine with Screwball's helmet and pours it out on top of his head..

BROWN TOM
Whoopeeeeeee....!

Jack appears in the shattered doorway, sword in hand.

JACK
Hate to break up the party, but there's work to be done!

Gump jumps to his feet.

GUMP
Hurry! Get those plates!

Jack sheathes his sword and rushes into the kitchen.

Screwball and Blunder follow, but Brown Tom lingers behind, scooping the helmet full of wine.

BROWN TOM
Just a wee taste....

Gump kicks Brown Tom smartly in the pants.

GUMP
Move! Or I make your head ring worse than any hangover!

Gump chases Brown Tom back into the kitchen.

101A INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 101A

The faeries gather up the fallen plates. Jack stares thoughtfully at the fireplace, where the body of the Second Cook has snuffed the flames.

GUMP
What's on your mind, Jack?

JACK
Smoke rising.... That chimney must go clear to the top.

Gump peers into the hearth.

GUMP
Not much to hold onto. Take a peapod pixie to make the climb....

Screwball steps proudly forward.

SCREWBALL
I'll do it!

The faeries are astonished. Screwball never volunteers.

GUMP
What? Can I believe my ears?

SCREWBALL
Don't see why not. Ain't I small enough for the job?

BLUNDER
(proudly)
No job's too small for the Buttercup brothers....

SCREWBALL
(on his knees)
Please, Gump....let me try. I know I'm always trouble, but I want to make it up to you.... Prove that I won't let you down.

BROWN TOM
Be sure ye don't fall down!

GUMP
All right! Do it! But be swift.

SCREWBALL
Thank you....thank you.... You'll never regret it....

Jack boosts Screwball up into the chimney.

JACK
I'm proud of you, Screwball.
(handing him a plate)
Don't drop it....

101A CONTINUED 101A

GUMP
(calling up)
We'll send Luna with a signal
when all is ready.

101B INTERIOR CHIMNEY DAY 101B

Screwball clings to the smoke-blackened bricks, staring up the nearly endless shaft at a small circle of light far above.

BROWN TOM (OS)
(calling from below)
Always knew you'd be going places,
Screwball.... Good luck....!

SCREWBALL
(to himself)
I'm goin' places, all right....
straight to the top and on outta
this hell-hole.... No more kitchen....
no more demons.... Just the easy life
for Screwball Buttercup....

101C INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 101C

A shining gold plate is propped on the belly of the Second Cook smouldering in the fireplace.

Luna positions another plate against the bellows, taking care to get the angle right.

Gump stands between the bellows and the shattered kitchen door, measuring the angle with a curious hand-held instrument.

GUMP
Little more to the left, Luna....
that's better....just a touch more....
perfect.

101D INTERIOR KITCHEN CORRIDOR DAY 101D

Blunder and Brown Tom run off carrying armloads of plates.

Jack leans a platter against the corridor wall, adjusting it precisely.

JACK
(calling)
How's that, Gump?

GUMP (O)S
Dead centre....!

102 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 102

Lili's tears have dried. She prowls the majestic hall with regal dignity. Something magic occurs at the banquet table: each crystal goblet fills mysteriously with black wine as she passes; every empty bowl and platter suddenly is heaped with an incredible variety of things to eat - all of it black!

The food is beautiful in spite of its colour. Lili stares at it with undisguised hunger. Some animal instinct warns her not to trust this gleaming ebony feast, but she's famished and snatches up an apple bright as polished anthracite.

DARKNESS (OS)
Good....eat....

Lili GASPS, dropping the apple. Darkness sits in one of the twin grotesque thrones flanking the hearth.

DARKNESS (CONT)
The food is for your enjoyment.

LILI
I don't want it! I'm not hungry!

DARKNESS
Do you lie just to please me?

LILI
I do nothing for your pleasure!

Darkness gestures to the opposing throne.

DARKNESS
You are so like a child, milady. Sit, and we'll talk.

Lili makes no move towards the chair.

DARKNESS (CONT)
(gently)
Like a child, you expect anger and defiance will upset me.... These are the qualities I admire most....

Lili snarls, fangs gleaming in the firelight.

LILI
So.... I'd love to rip out your throat, yet it would pain you more if I licked your hand....

DARKNESS
All I desire is that you sit in that chair and talk to me.

Lili approaches the grotesque throne. Like some impossible living organism, it pulses in anticipation.

102 CONTINUED 102

LILI
Sit....? Here....?

DARKNESS
Yes. Please....

LILI
I prefer to stand.

For a moment, Darkness nearly succumbs to anger. The veins in his forehead throb. His talons grip his throne in a spasm of fury.

DARKNESS
(snarling)
Sit....!

Darkness shrewdly realises rage won't work and he relaxes with a twisted smile.

DARKNESS (CONT)
....or stand. As you wish.... It's enough that we're alone together.... just the two of us.....

102A CLOSE : MATCHING FIREPLACE OPPOSITE 102A

Across the Great Hall from the blazing hearth is an identical fireplace. This one is cold, but not empty. Covered with soot and black as a Moor, Screwball climbs into VIEW between the massive andirons.

DARKNESS (CONT) (OS)
All of time awaits us....why not make a start.

Screwball puts down his plate and tiptoes into the Great Hall towards the banqueting table.

LILI (OS)
A start at what....?

102B INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 102B

Darkness leans forward in his throne, smiling at Lili.

DARKNESS
Simple conversation....

LILI
What do we possibly have to talk about?

DARKNESS
Thoughts....dreams....ambitions....

LILI
I have no interest in your foul ambition.

CONTINUED

102B CONTINUED 102B

DARKNESS
Desire then....surely we beasts all have desire.

102C INTERIOR GREAT HALL (MATCHING FIREPLACE OPPOSITE) DAY 102C

Unseen, Screwball climbs up onto the banquet table. He can't believe his good furtune. A bounteous feast surrounds him.

LILI (OS)
You'd never dream what I desire....

DARKNESS (OS)
Don't be so sure.... Dreams are my speciality....

Screwball stuffs his tunic with black fruit. He rushes about, treading on the feast in his crazed delirium at being surrounded by such plenty.

DARKNESS (CONT) (OS)
It is through dreams that I influence mankind. I have dreams of my own.... dreams of eternity with you....no more silence....no more loneliness....

102D INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 102D

Lili LAUGHS in the face of Darkness

LILI
(scornfully)
Such drivel! You sound like some simpering schoolboy!

DARKNESS
I'll wager there was a time when the attentions of a devoted schoolboy were entirely to you liking.

Lili regards her clawed fingers with a savage sneer.

LILI
(snarling)
I know what I'd do with such meat now!

DARKNESS
....all things change, lady. The pleasures of youth become the regrets of maturity....

A loud CRASH on the banquet table causes Darkness to look around. He SEES Screwball standing by the centrepiece, about to shove a whole chicken in his mouth.

CONTINUED

DARKNESS (CONT)
(angry)
What're you doing here?

Blackened with soot, Screwball easily passes for a goblin.

SCREWBALL
(all innocence)
....am I early....?

DARKNESS
You impudent imp!

SCREWBALL
I thought the invitation said half-past....

DARKNESS
(roaring)
GET OUT!

Screwball gets the message. He drops the chicken and hops down off the banquet table, running to the opposite fireplace for all he's worth.

DARKNESS (CONT)
(gently to Lili)
Sit....I value your thoughts. Why not share them with me?

Lili looks at the grotesque throne.

LILI
No more than that....just sit?

DARKNESS
(nodding)
Sit....

Lili steps up onto the oversized footstool. Inches behind her, the monstrous throne swells and throbs like an organic creature, the powerful sinews rippling with desire.

LILI
(a feline smile)
Doesn't seem such an outrageous request....

The Princess prepares to sit, her luscious, silk-swathed bottom only inches from the lascivious surface of the squirming throne.

DARKNESS
You'll never regret granting me this favour....

Lili's eyes glitter as she teases him.

LILI
What shall we talk about?

102D CONTINUED 102D

DARKNESS
(impatient)
Just sit!

The febric of Lili's gown brushes the writhing throne. In another second, she will be sitting. Unexpectedly, she stands up tall on the footstool.

LILI
Such a disagreeable chair....must be terribly uncomfortable. I think I'll stand, if you don't mind.

Darkness barely controls his raging anger.

DARKNESS
I prefer you to sit!

LILI
I'd rather stand, thank you.

Darkness's forehead swells with fury.

DARKNESS
Sit!

LILI
No.... Not now....

Darkness puffs like an adder in his frenzy, rising up to tower over Lili.

DARKNESS
(roaring)
I command you to sit!

Lili is utterly unafraid. She LAUGHS at the swollen image of Darkness.

LILI
Don't be silly.

Lili hops down from the footstool.

DARKNESS
(screaming with rage)
SIT, DAMN YOU!

Lili sashays past him, twitching her gown in an unashamedly wanton fashion. Her hearty LAUGH is as loud as the outraged ROARS of Darkness.

LILI
(laughing)
Never....never....

103-110 DELETED 103-110

110A INTERIOR DUNGEON CHASM DAY 110A

Jack scales a plate like a golden discus across the chasm to Brown Tom waiting on the viaduct above.

Jack hurls another plate.

Suddenly, the Winged Monster, hatched from the walking Egg, glides SHRIEKING from the shadows. It catches the plate in its saw-toothed beak and dives at Jack. Gump sees it first.

GUMP
Jack....!

Dropping the plate, the Winged Monster rips at Jack. The Green Man draws his sword and defends himself. The fight is savage and brief. Jack hacks the Monster out of the air. It lies, flapping and broken at his feet. Gump touches him sympathetically on the arm.

JACK
....I'm all right.... Let's get on.... to the dungeon....

GUMP
(pensive)
You have power within I never imagined....

111 INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 111

Darkness stares at the Princess in a towering rage. She flirtatiously pretends to be interested in a bit of fruit before rejecting it in favour of another, which also proves not to her liking.

DARKNESS
I'm not above my own little pranks, milady....should you have a taste for them.

LILI
No doubt they're as foul as the stuff you set on your table....

Darkness relaxes, taking his cue from Lili's mocking tone.

DARKNESS
Foul....or fair, such distinctions are entirely arbitrary, my dear.... Does not the lowly toad think his mate fair, warts and all....?

LILI
Do you suggest I will think you fair some day?

CONTINUED

111 CONTINUED 111

DARKNESS
In time....and time we surely have....
stretching before us....infinity....
like a merciful curtain closing off
the past....

Darkness moves gracefully to Lili's side and kneels before her.

DARKNESS (CONT)
I beseech you....do not reject my
words as you do my food.... Never
have I so abased myself before
another.... It is not humility
that brings me low, mistress....
but love....

LILI
Love?

DARKNESS
Aye, love.... You think my heart
a barren desert where only hate can
flower.... A much finer blossom
shows it petals now....nourished by
sorrow....watered with your tears....
(baring his breast)
I offer you this rose, Princess!
....my heart....my soul....

Lili is astonished. She walks away to consider what Darkness has said.

Darkness watches her slyly. His expression reveals his words to have been a ruse. He gloats in anticipation.

Lili turns back to face him. Darkness immediately resumes his look of adoration.

LILI
You dizzy me, lord.... I never thought
to hear the word 'love' spoken again....

DARKNESS
You'll hear it forever.
(shouting)
I love you!

LILI
If such is true....hope is yet alive....
(regarding her claws)
These talons can caress as well as kill....

They are interrupted by the SOUND of a CHIME. An unseen clock tolls the hour.

Darkness stares up into the shadows.

DARKNESS
It grows late....

111A EXTERIOR SKY DAY 111A

The setting sun blazes through distant drifting clouds, tinting the sky in a riot of colours. Another CHIME is heard.

111B INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 111B

The SOUND of the unicorn's frightened whinny carries up from the dungeons below.

DARKNESS
(laughing)
Our wedding feast is in good voice.... think you not?

Lili cunningly disguises her alarm.

LILI
I admire your thrift, my lord, both the meal and the entertainment in a single dish.

Darkness appreciates this joke.

DARKNESS
Are you anxious to see blood flow?

LILI
As you are to drink it!
(smiling slyly)
Will the groom grant his bride her wish on this night?

DARKNESS
(beaming with pleasure)
You have but to ask, my savage beauty.

Lili leers, baring her feline teeth.

LILI
I want to kill the unicorn!

Darkness claps his hands with joy.

DARKNESS
Lady, you make me proud....

111C INTERIOR CHIMNEY DAY 111C

Screwball struggles up the endless chimney, past hideous gargoyles and ancient skeletons imbedded in the blackened bricks.

The SOUNDS of conversation CARRY UP from below.

LILI (OS)
I will do it with joy....! Let the unicorn's blood anoint our love!

CONTINUED

111C CONTINUED 111C

SCREWBALL
Crumpets and candlesticks....! She's gonna kill it!

LILI (OS)
....and in the eternity awaiting us, I will happily sit on your throne as befits the Queen of Darkness!

SCREWBALL
I can't let that happen....Why, it's not civilized!

Clutching the golden plate, Screwball struggles upwards like a tiny mountaineer.

He reaches into a grinning skull for a handhold and the jaws clamp shut on his fingers.

SCREWBALL (CONT)
Billygoat dumplings!

Screwball yanks his hand free, nearly losing his balance. His terror gives him renewed energy and he scrambles frantically up the inside of the chimney.

111D EXTERIOR TOP OF CHIMNEY DAY 111D

The chimney pot is shaped like a monstrous demon. Black as a sweep, Screwball emerges at the top and looks around.

The distant sun is a dying ember resting on the surrounding rim of dark mountains. We HEAR the SOUND of a clock CHIME!

111E INTERIOR DUNGEON CORRIDOR DAY 111E

A distant CHIME stops Gump in his tracks. He pulls his timepiece from the pouch and studies it.

GUMP
....not much time....

111F INTERIOR GREAT HALL DAY 111F

Princess Lili stretches out her arms towards Darkness.

LILI
Bring me to the wretched beast....

Darkness takes her arm and leads her towards the blazing hearth.

The unicorn's distant whinny ECHOES from below.

CONTINUED

111F CONTINUED 111F

DARKNESS
This way, fair beauty. I hear a throat begging to be cut.

Lili hesitates when she realises Darkness intends to lead her straight into the flames.

LILI
(fearful)
No....! It's impossible!

Darkness steps into the leaping flames. He turns and takes Lili's hand.

DARKNESS
Now you are my queen. Nothing is impossible.... Come....it takes but a single step.... Find the faith....

Darkness looks deep into Lili's eyes. She places her tiny foot among the white glowing coals. Nothing happens. Not even the fur is singed.

Lili smiles. Her fear vanishes. She stands at the side of her master. Darkness wraps a powerful arm about the girl and they are consumed by flames, becoming one with the blaze around them.

112 DELETED 112

113 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 113

Unseen by the deformed goblin GUARDS, the faeries creep out of the shadows and take cover behind a squat stone column.

Jack positions Blunder in the corridor entrance with the final plate before joining the others.

JACK
Everything's ready....

GUMP
And you, Jack? Your greatest challenge is stil to come....

Darkness and Princess Lili emerge, arm in arm, out of a background curtain of fire. They sweep majestically down the stone steps to where the unicorn is chained.

Silent as mice, Jack and the faeries peer around at them. Jack is horrified by Lili's bestial appearance.

JACK
....oh, God....! Lili....

GUMP
Judge her with your heart, not your eyes.

CONTINUED

113 CONTINUED 113

Blix and Pox and the other goblin Guards scramble to attention as the regal pair descends.

BLIX
Greetings....

POX
S-s-s-salutations....

DARKNESS
Silence....! Prepare the unicorn for sacrifice!

The goblins hurry to comply. Blix selects a grotesque black greatsword from among a rack of weapons.

Pox furiously pedals a grindstone. Blix applies the blade. Showers of sparks shower onto the glistening floor.

Behind the column, the watching faeries are desperate. Luna's glowing LIGHT hovers above their heads.

BROWN TOM
The game is lost....for all of Jack's pretty plan....

JACK
No! It'll work! It must!

GUMP
Luna! Fly up to Screwball! Tell him it's time!

Quick as a FLASH, Luna STREAKS off into the shadows.

Blix carries the sharpened greatsword to Darkness, offering it with a low bow.

DARKNESS
Excellent.... Let the ritual begin....

The demon Guards stand in a semi-circle around the unicorn. Blix and Pox open tattered black prayer books. Darkness steps to a twisted lectern and READS from a sinister volume.

DARKNESS
In the begining, there was nothing.... a void of darkness, a cold eternity of silence....

POX
Endless night, black as death! Mother of Shadows protect us!

The assembled Guards answer in a ghastly CHORUS:

CHORUS OF GUARDS
Mother of Shadows, renew us!

CONTINUED

113 CONTINUED 113

POX
Dream Sister....eclipse our pain!

CHORUS OF GUARDS
Night Bride....restore our strength!

114 INTERIOR KEEP AND CORRIDORS DAY 114

Luna BLAZES straight up out of the abysmal keep; a tiny shooting star. The demons' ceremony continues (OS)

DARKNESS (OS)
....and when the perfect void was corrupted by Light, a great wailing was heard and all the brethren fled in terror....

Luna rockets along the ruined corridors of the labyrinth.

CHORUS OF GUARDS (OS)
Deliver us, O Darkness, from all fear....

115 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 115

Darkness steps forward. His booming VOICE disturbs the sleeping bats and sends them wheeling in clouds around his head.

DARKNESS
Hear me, ye Powers of the Night! We offer this sacrifice in honour of you....

Darkness reaches up and seeizes a fluttering bat from out of the air.

DARKNESS (CONT)
Here is our offering....sanctified with blood....

Darkness crushes the bat to a pulp and splatters the unicorn's white flank with its blood. Darkness struggles mentally with the defiant mare.

DARKNESS (CONT)
....and with fire!

Darkness touches his fingertip to the unicorn's haunch. The hide smoulders instantly, leaving an ugly brand.

CHORUS OF GUARDS
Blood and fire, born of Night....
Blood and fire, drown the Light!

The unicorn rears back. Her hooves CLATTER on the cold stones.

CONTINUED

115 CONTINUED 115

DARKNESS
I pray you, Father, accept my sacrifice....Let Light be forever extinguished! Let the Age of Darkness begin!

Darkness contorts with the strain of imposing his will on the unicorn. He dominates the mare and she grows calm.

As the Demon Guards CHANT, Blix and Pox strain at the winch. They drag the unicorn towards the chopping block.

116 DELETED 116

116A EXTERIOR TOP OF CHIMNEY DAY 116A

Screwball stands watching the sunset. One hand holds the plate, the other polishes a black apple on his tunic.

SCREWBALL
(singing under his breath)
....nickety-nackety....noo-noo-noo....

The apple is bright as obsidian. Screwball smiles at his reflection on its gleaming surface.

SCREWBALL (CONT)
(singing)
....fiddle-dee-widdle-dee....

Screwball takes a big bite out of the apple.

Screwball grins, chewing happily. Not a care in the world.

It hits him like a stroke. His eyes cross and he topples, dropping the plate.

Luna comes BLASTING out of the chimney like a tracer bullet.

LUNA
(tiny voice)
Screwball!

Screwball falls onto the rim of the chimney.

In a brilliant BURST OF LIGHT, Luna materialises into her grown self, catching the plate an instant before it drops over the edge.

LUNA (CONT)
Do it!

Luna looks sadly down on Screwball, touching him with her toe.

LUNA (CONT)
Screwball.... Wake up!

CONTINUED

116A CONTINUED 116A

Screwball SNORES loudly.

LUNA (CONT)
Oh, Screwball....

Luna aims the golden plate at the ruby BLAZE of the setting sun. She aims a beam of LIGHT straight down the chimney.

116B INTERIOR CHIMNEY DAY 116B

The beam of LIGHT descends the dark shaft like a golden waterfall.

116C INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 116C

The beam of LIGHT moves like a searchlight inside the fireplace, criss-crossing the Second Cook's body as it misses the propped plate he holds by inches.

117 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 117

Working together, the two goblins turn the iron winch. Bit by bit, the cable is drawn forward onto the drum.

The unicorn's neck is stretched across the block.

Darkness stands before Lili, offering the greatsword.

DARKNESS
Once your hands were too delicate for such a task....spinning and weaving were more their work....

LILI
Let my loom be made of flesh and blood....I am sister to the Fates!

Lili eagerly seizes the sword.

DARKNESS
What a queen you'll make!

Jack slumps against the column, desperate.

JACK
Come on, Screwball....

GUMP
She means to do it, Jack! She's one of them!

Jack stares at Lili.

Gump grabs a long black bow from a weapon rack, and an arrow from a quiver beside it.

GUMP (CONT)
I'm going to stop her!

117 CONTINUED 117

JACK
Gump, wait! I trust her!

Gump fits an arrow onto the bowstring.

The unicorn is helpless before Lili. Blix locks the winch, securing the cable.

DARKNESS
My lady, the birth of a new world awaits your stroke.

Lili swings the greatsword high over head.

CHORUS OF GUARDS
(chanting)
Blood and fire....eternal ice!
Blood and fire....and sacrifice....

Gump draws back the arrow in the longbow, aiming at Lili.

JACK
No....! Don't....!

Jack grabs the bow. He and Gump struggle for the weapon.

118 DELETED 118

119 DELETED 119

120 DELETED 120

120A INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY 120A

The beam of LIGHT hits the plate held by the Second Cook in the fireplace. It STREAKS across to the plate leaning on the bellows, ZIGZAGGING out into the corridor.

120B INTERIOR KEEP DAY 120B

The beam of LIGHT ZOOMS out of the corridor, strikes the plate on the viaduct, and REFLECTS down into the lowest depths of the castle.

121 INTERIOR DUNGEON DAY 121

Gump is determined to shoot Lili. Jack, equally determined to stop him.

JACK
I trust her, Gump.... I'll always trust her....

GUMP
Foolish, mortal!

The beam of LIGHT STREAMS in through the corridor. Blunder REFLECTS it off his plate towards the others.

121 CONTINUED 121

Struggling for the bow, Jack and Gump kick over the propped shield the moment the LIGHT beam reaches it.

BROWN TOM
Stop lads....! The light!

A wild LAUGH bursts from Lili's throat. She swings the sword with all her might.

The blade arcs through the air, a glittering SUNBURST where it carves through the deflected beam of LIGHT.

Lili aims not for the mare, but the line restraining her. The sword severs the woven cable.

LILI
(exultant)
Run! You're free....!

The unicorn plunges into the shadows. Only the ECHO of her hoofbeats remain.

Jack and Gump stop struggling. Jack dives for his fallen shield.

Darkness pulls a weapon from his belt. It is the stallion's alicorn, mounted as a shortsword.

DARKNESS
(sneering savagely)
Innocence!

Huge and terrible, Darkness lunges for Lili, driving the alicorn straight through her side.

Lili is pierced by the horn. She GASPS, supported by the Demon's hold on the blade.

Miraculously, Lili's features alter and TRANSFORM. The fangs and claws disappear. Her fur melts like the morning dew. She is an innocent maiden once more.

Lili slides dying off the alicorn and falls to the ground.

Jack holds his shield in the beam of LIGHT, angling in a bright swath towards Darkness.

JACK
Burn....! You evil bastard....

The LIGHT hits Darkness like an express train. He HOWLS, blasted in a smoking whirlwind across the dungeon.

Darkness cowers on his knees, SCREAMING in the LIGHT.

All the goblins scatter HOWLING away from the LIGHT.

Brown Tom capers a happy two-step around Gump, who stares straight up into the central keep.

CONTINUED

121 CONTINUED 121

BROWN TOM
....and we'll dance on the black devil's grave....

GUMP'S POV : LOOKING UP: The beam of LIGHT dims and goes out.

BROWN TOM (OS).
What's wrong....? What's happening, Gump?

Gump shrugs, looking sadly at Jack and the darkened shield he holds.

GUMP
(sadly)
Sunset....

With a savage SNARL, Darkness staggers off into the gloom, trailing tendrils of smoke.

Jack drops the shield and rushes to Lili's side. He kneels and cradles her in his arms.

Throwing back his head, Jack HOWLS like a wild animal. His CRY is a wolf-wail of utter despair.

Gump runs frantically up to the grieving Green Man.

GUMP
No, Jack.... Quick! He's after the mare!

Gump seizes the grotesque sacrificial greatsword.

GUMP (CONT)
The world needs a champion!
(handing Jack the black sword)
Use this against him!

Jack snatches the sword. He rises cold with fury and runs off in pursuit of Darkness.

122 DELETED 122

123 DELETED 123

124 DELETED 124

125 DELETED 125

125A INTERIOR TUNNEL NIGHT 125A

The unicorn gallops through a desolate landscape of broken columns and crumbled masonry.

126 EXTERIOR EDGE OF THE WORLD NIGHT 126

A precipice jutting over eternity. The unicorn runs along a narrow trail bordering the edge of the abyss, highlighted by a bright backdrop of comets and stars.

126A INTERIOR TUNNEL NIGHT 126A

CLOSE ON : The black hooves of Darkness as he runs relentlessly along the unicorn's track.

PULL BACK to show Darkness TRANSFORMED into a muscular black unicorn stallion. He surges onward, an explosion of strength. FLAMES flare from his nostrils.

126B EXTERIOR EDGE OF THE WORLD NIGHT 126B

The huge black unicorn THUNDERS out of the cavern-mouth.

The mare stands alone, trapped on a final promontory.

The black stallion REARS and charges the mare....

Black and terrible, the devil stallion rises over the mare, striking out with his fearsome hooves.

The mare staggers before this onslaught of evil, falling to the ground amid flying black feet.

The black stallion paws the ground, preparing to ram his alicorn into the fallen mare.

Jack runs out from the dark cavern, gripping the evil greatsword with both hands. He sees the stallion tower above the mare.

JACK
(calling out)
Darkness....! You rotten filth!

The superb black unicorn turns to meet this new challenge. He SNORTS, breathing fire, and lowers his head, charging straight at Jack.

Jack stands his ground, greatsword poised, as the huge black stallion gallops toward him, hooves striking SPARKS.

Jack swings with all his might as the demon unicorn ROARS slavering past.

The greatsword passes straight through the black beast, as if it were striking a ghost.

Jack is knocked off balance by the fury of the charge, but he manages to stay on his feet as the stallion wheels and attackes again.

The black unicorn's red eyes BLAZE as he crashes into Jack.

CONTINUED

126B CONTINUED 126B

The Green Man is thrown awkwardly to one side. He loses the greatsword and sprawls helpless on the ground.

Dazed, Jack rises on his elbows. He sees the black hooves of Darkness standing before him.

Looking up, Jack sees the Lord of Darkness TRANSFORMED back to his original form. He holds his alicorn sword pointed straight at the boy's heart.

DARKNESS
Always a pleasure to take a brave man's life.

Darkness thrusts down with the alicorn, but Jack rolls skilfully aside and bounds to his feet.

JACK
....haven't killed me yet....

Jack draws his own sword and swings at Darkness, who parries with the alicorn. SPARKS fly.

Jack swings again. Darkness catches the blade in his bare hand and holds Jack immobile to meet his malevolent gaze.

DARKNESS
....Oh, but I have....

Jack is speechless with terror.

DARKNESS (CONT)
Don't you know me, boy, don't you know from whence I come....

The muscled hump behind Darkness's neck bulges and cracks. It bursts open and a pair of leathery bat wings unfold. Jack's horror is complete.

DARKNESS (CONT)
Time to die....

Darkness drives the alicorn sword into Jack's chest, running him through.

Jack's eyes are wide with astonishment. Is this what it's like to die?

Darkness pulls the alicorn out of Jack. There is no blood! No trace of a wound remains on his flesh. Jack blinks in wordless amazement.

DARKNESS (CONT)
So....! I should have known.... We're just the same! You're immortal, Jack!

JACK
(disbelieving)
No....! I'm not! I'm human....

CONTINUED

126B CONTINUED 126B

DARKNESS
(laughing)
Who was your mother?

JACK
(confused)
I....don't know....

DARKNESS
Who was your father?

JACK
....I....can't remember....

DARKNESS
How long have your lived in the forest?

JACK
All my life....! I....I....know who I am....

DARKNESS
You pitiful fool! An immortal all this time and never knew....
(laughing)
Don't you see, Jack? Don't you understand your power....! Together we could rule the universe!

JACK
(bewildered)
....together....?

DARKNESS
There'd be nothing to stop us! No power could stand in our way! We're just the same, Jack.... You and I....eternal....!

Jack struggles to understand the immensity of this revelation. He wavers in the face of the demon's persuasiveness.

All at once, the mare unicorn gallops up from out of the shadows, white and pure.

She spears Darkness straight through his mid-section. The evil Lord SCREAMS, staring down at the shining alicorn thrusting out of his chest.

DARKNESS (CONT)
....Father....! Protect me....

Darkness starts to shrink. The mare lifts the writhing demon high in the air, impaled like a kicking insect.

Rearing, the unicorn arches her neck and tosses Darkness over the edge into the abyss.

CONTINUED

126B CONTINUED 126B

Darkness tumbles into the haze. His final HOWL is a lament from the depths of Hell.

At the last moment, the falling figure of Darkness TRANSFORMS into the flapping black cloak and sails off into the shadows.

Jack picks up the alicorn. He wraps his other arm around the unicorn's neck. They stand together at the edge of the world, united in a victorious embrace.

126C EXTERIOR MOUTH OF CAVERN NIGHT 126C

The faeries gather at the entrance. Screwball is there, half asleep. Luna is full-sized. Pale and sleeping, Lili lies on the black cloak. The faeries stand around her, eyes downcast.

Jack rides up, mounted on the unicorn. Surrounded by light, he is more than a champion. He is divine. The faeries are delighted.

GUMP
Why....Jack....solved your riddle at last....

BROWN TOM
Should've known no mortal could speak unicorn like that....

JACK
How is Lili?

GUMP
Sadly beyond the help of faerie magic. She's under a powerful spell.... It's like a riddle....

Jack understand. He brightens into a smile.

JACK
I know the answer....! Lift her to me, gently....

Jack hands Gump the alicorn as the faeries gather Lili in their arms, lifting her above their heads.

Jack carefully pulls the enchanted Princess in front of him across the unicorn's withers.

JACK (CONT)
We'll meet again, dear friends....

Jack touches his heels to the unicorn's flanks and they gallop off in a CLATTER of hoofbeats.

GUMP
(waving)
Ride like the wind, Jack....

CONTINUED

126C CONTINUED 126C

BROWN TOM
Wish we could go with him....

GUMP
Any why not? I know some magic words that'll do the trick!

SCREWBALL
Oh, no! Not me! I hate to travel like that....makes me sick.

GUMP
Stand back....! The sky's the limit!

SCREWBALL
Can't stand your bumpy takeoffs....

Abruptly, Screwball SHOOTS into the air, flying out of sight.

GUMP
Screwball! Wait for the spell....

SCREWBALL (OS)
....I never do....

Gump gestures magically.

GUMP
Eiderdown and milkweed fluff....

All at once, Gump, Blunder and Brown Tom STREAK off into space. Luna watches them go. TRANSFORMING into a dot of LIGHT, she speeds up after them.

127 EXTERIOR FOREST (RIDE MONTAGE) NIGHT 127

Jack clings to Lili as the unicorn thunders through the midnight forest, darting like quicksilver between the shadowy trees, leaping impossible chasms, splashing across streams in a burst of moonlit spray.

127A EXTERIOR SKY NIGHT 127A

The full moon hangs above like the lantern of God as the faeries tumble through the clear night sky. Gump rides the alicorn like a broomstick.

Far below, magically white and fluid as a free-roving moonbeam, the unicorn carries her passengers across the nocturnal forest with the ease of a dreamer transported through time.

128 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 128

It is not yet sun-up. The first faint trace of the false dawn tints the eastern horizon. Everywhere, the snow is melting. It is like springtime, with bold patches of green showing through the frozen landscape.

CONTINUED

128 CONTINUED 128

A bright beam of LIGHT APPROACHES, weaving between the giant trees. It is Jack and Lili, mounted on the unicorn.

Jack rides up onto the high rock overhanging the pond and slides easily to the ground with Lili in his arms.

The unicorn doesn't move.She stands watching as Jack gently rests Lili down on the mossy earth.

Jack strips off his golden mail coat and steps to the edge of the promontory. He dives gracefully into the pond.

128A EXTERIOR FOREST DAY 128A

Screwball in the lead, the faeries CRASH down through the trees, bouncing to a stop on the forest floor.

SCREWBALL
Ow!

BROWN TOM
Ouch!

GUMP
(cheerfully)
Home again!

The bedraggled faeries scowl at Gump.

129 EXTERIOR UNDERWATER DAY 129

Jack streaks down, streaming air bubbles like a comet's tail.

129A EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 129A

The faeries gather around the frozen unicorn stallion. His alicorn has been restored. Wreathed in flowers, it stands majestically out from his forehead.

129B EXTERIOR UNDERWATER DAY 129B

Jack strokes deeper and deeper into the pond, past undulating weeds and curious fish.

129C EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 129C

Faeries are all about, dancing and SINGING around the statuesque unicorn. They pelt one another with petals. The mare stands demurely to one side, draped in blossoms.

129D EXTERIOR UNDERWATER DAY 129D

At the bottom, Jack moves carefully, trying not to stir up the muck. He gently parts the drifting tendrils, searching among the water weeds.

129E EXTERIOR TREETOP DAY 129E

High above the faerie celebration, beautiful MUSIC is HEARD. It is Gump, playing his violin in the uppermost branches of a towering pine. Delicate as the call of a meadow lark, Gump's music rises sweetly into the heavens. It is just dawn. The sun's GLOW blazes in the east.

129F EXTERIOR UNDERWATER DAY 129F

A winking GLEAM catches Jack's eye and he reaches out an eager hand.

A cloud of silt issues from his grasp as he opens his fingers. Centred on his palm, golden and perfect, is Lili's ring.

129G EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 129G

Round and full, the sun rises. The golden rays pierce through the trees and start across the open meadow. Gump's music continues, more lyrical than ever.

As the sunlight advances, bright spring flowers push up through the once-frozen earth.

129H EXTERIOR UNDERWATER DAY 129H

Jack turns and strokes upwards, higher and higher, towards the shining ceiling of light far above.

129I EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 129I

Gump's music swells to a crescendo. The life-giving sunlight reaches across the meadow and strikes the flank of the dormant stallion.

130 EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 130

Jack breaks the surface, holding the ring triumphantly above his head.

130A EXTERIOR CLIFF ABOVE POND DAY 130A

The Princess sleeps under the tree. She no longer wears the black wedding gown, but is dressed as before. Jack's armour has also disappeared.

Jack kneels before Lili and slips the ring onto her finger.

He takes the girl into his arms and kisses her passionately on the mouth.

Lili smiles. Her eyelids flutter.

131 DELETED 131

132 DELETED 132

133 DELETED 133

134 EXTERIOR UNICORN DEATH ARENA DAY 134

The unicorn's sunlit flesh twitches, dislodging a butterfly warming his wings on his haunch.

In a single, beautiful movement, the stallion rises to his feet. He arches his powerful neck and CALLS to his mate. The magic animals gallop off together across the open meadow.

135 DELETED 135

136 DELETED 136

136A EXTERIOR RING POND DAY 136A

Princess Lili awakens.

LILI
Oh....! Jack! What a dream I've had!

The Princess smiles when she sees the ring on her finger.

LILI (CONT)
Such a terrible dream.... I could never tell you....

Lili looks around, but Jack is nowhere in sight.

LILI (CONT)
Jack....? Where are you....?
(calling)
Green Jack!

Getting no reply, Lili wanders off in search of Jack.

137 EXTERIOR JACK'S FOREST GLADE DAY 137

Puzzled, Lili searches through this familiar place.

LILI
(calling)
Jack....! Where are you hiding now?

The wind surges through the treetops. The leaves all move together as if they were a single living organism.

Jack's VOICE is heard out of the waving trees.

JACK (OS)
I'm everywhere, Lili....my spirit lives in everything....

LILI
Jack.... Don't play games with me! I love you!

JACK(OS)
I....love....you....

137 CONTINUED 137

LILI
Will you be here tomorrow?

Unseen in the bushes, Gump and the faeries hide, grinning as they watch Lili.

JACK (OS)
I'm always here, Lili....whenever you come....

Mystified, but happy, Princess Lili picks a flower and wanders off into the sun-bright woods.

END CREDITS ROLL

138 EXTERIOR MEADOW DAY 138

A lush broad expanse, boldly patterned with wild flowers. Breasting the waving grass like a swimmer in the sea, the unicorn bounds joyfully in total freedom.

Mounted on the animal's back, his arms spread in victory, Jack rides like a triumphant angel. His hair and skin are tinted green! He is the incarnation of all that is magical in Nature.

THE END